



AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

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Holiday/Winter 2012-2013

ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING GUIDE



Amish
Christmas
Customs

Mennonite Relief Shops
Bring
Holiday Bargains

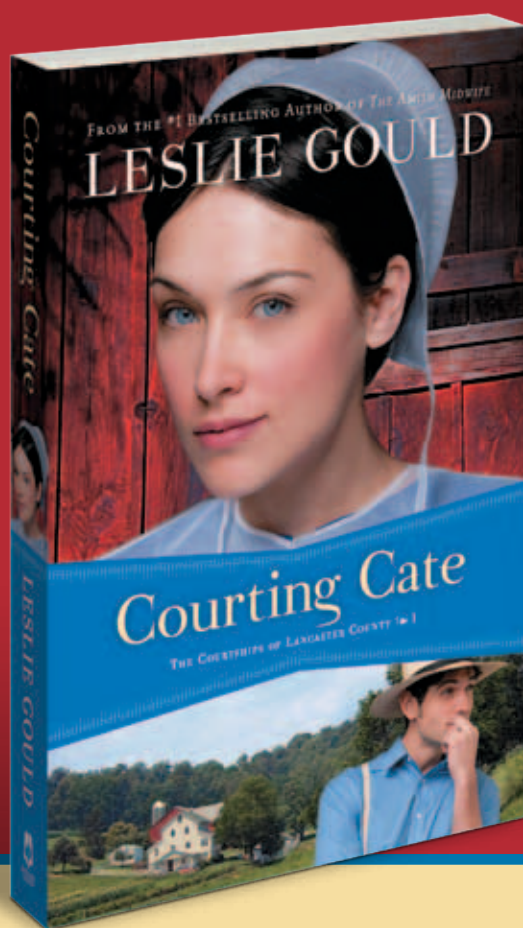
Holiday Shopping
Amish Country
Style



NEW AMISH SERIES

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LESLIE GOULD



Cate Miller is known more for her fiery temper than her striking appearance. Her sweet and flirty sister, Betsy, on the other hand, seems to have attracted almost every bachelor in Lancaster County. But the sisters' wealthy father has set a hard-and-fast rule: Cate, as the oldest, must get married before Betsy can do so. Unfortunately, Cate has driven away every suitor—until Pete Treger comes to town, that is.

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While driving along Route 30 in Lancaster County, you may see a few unfamiliar, if not unique, sites. You may catch a glimpse of some folks dressed a little unusually. You'll probably see a few horse-drawn carriages instead of cars. And, you'll undoubtedly notice the Dutch Haven windmill. This landmark building has been drawing thousands of visitors each week to Lancaster County for the past 50 years. Opening first as a restaurant in 1946, the Dutch Haven operated with great success with a world famous Shoo Fly pie recipe.

Today, the Dutch Haven staple is still "America's Best Shoo Fly Pie." All you have to do is pass through the door and you will be offered a sample taste of this famous pie—warmed and topped with whipped cream, just like it was always served in the restaurant, years ago.

Some 40,000 pies will be sold at the Dutch Haven this year alone. While most of these shoo fly pies are purchased over the counter, some are shipped UPS. Many pies are sold to faithful customers who have been buying them from Dutch Haven for over half a century!

Come Taste
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Shoo Fly Pie
FREE!

As always at Dutch Haven, the famous pie that was featured in Time magazine is just

part of the story. The windmill building now houses one of, if not the best, selections of primitive Amish pine furniture in the area. Corner cupboards, pie safes, chests, and shelves are all available. Hundreds of pieces of Amish woodcrafts fill what once were the dining rooms of this wonderful old building. In addition, thousands of other items from pot holders to collectibles, T-shirts, small wood crafts, local jams, jellies, and honey, and much more make Dutch Haven a true shopping experience.

Dutch Haven is open 7 days a week, Fri. & Sat. 9am-9pm, Sun.-Thurs. 9am-7pm. For more information about this Lancaster County landmark, call (717) 687-0111.

Visiting Dutch Haven - "the place that made Shoo Fly Pie famous" - will help to make your trip to Pennsylvania Dutch Country even more memorable. 



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Jakey's Amish Barbeque

Shopping Made Simple, and Fun, at Jake's Country Trading Post

by Clinton Martin

Amish Country has long been known for foods, natural beauty and, of course, excellent country shopping. Back in September of 1996 one of the area's most treasured shops, Jake's Country Trading Post, opened for business and actually created the new standard for country shopping combined with unusual selections of various and sundry items for the eclectic shopper.

It took a lot of hard work to bring the store from concept to reality, but the Jackson family, the people behind Jake's, knew they had something special to offer the Amish Country shopping scene. The Jackson's were in the leather business for 25 years prior to opening Jake's, selling quality leather crafts at fairs, craft shows, and malls. After vowing to put down some roots and put the traveling trade behind them, the Jackson's called a family brainstorming session where they decided to settle in Amish Country.

They knew they wanted a stand-alone store, and one that carried a huge variety of merchandise, not just leather. Fortunately, it did not take long to find the perfect property to fulfill their retail aspirations. Long-time visitors to Amish Country might remember the site of the old Keystone Cheese Factory. After a long, hot summer of renovations to what would be christened Jake's Country Trading Post, the doors opened to the completely refurbished structure. The first customers walked through the doors the weekend after Labor Day in 1996.

From the first day of business, the whole Jackson Family has been involved in growing Jake's. Ed & Melissa are the owners who work along with their son, Jeremy and his wife, Crystal. Grandson, Andrew, became a poster child for Jake's on the Country Trading Post website. Pictures of baby Andrew (now he is 10 years old!) bobbing up and down in a wooden bucket were featured.

Time progressed, and more and more customers came to discover and fall in love with Jake's. The Jacksons soon realized they were already outgrowing the building they had worked so hard to renovate! The original store was comprised of 15 rooms, each with silly names such as "The Skinny Room" or "The Freezer Room" and filled with interesting and unusual merchandise to match. Simply put, they needed more room.

In 2004 the Jacksons broke ground for a completely new Jake's building. It was a magnificent project, erecting a 10,000 square foot building, a paved parking lot with 80 parking spaces, and many other needed additions. But the original

building was not torn down. Instead, both were, and remain, inventoried with even more merchandise. There is now a large outdoor lawn area connecting the two, unique in its own right with decorative statuary, pottery, and patio furniture.

Never folks to sit on their laurels, the Jacksons were ready for yet another upgrade in 2012, having developed a brand new sign and logo for their beloved storefront. The sign is indeed new, as is Jake's line of merchandise, ever-changing, meeting the always-evolving tastes and fancies of both locals and visitors. Yet certain lines have become time-tested mainstays at Jake's...

Park Designs – Jake's has been carrying this line for over 10 years, and the Park Design linens have grown from a few pairs of curtains and placemats to a section four full rows deep dedicated exclusively to Park's textile selections. At least 50 styles are available in a large variety of items including placemats, napkins, tablecloths, dishtowels, table runners, potholders, rugs, valances, panels, tiers, shower curtains and much more. Park Designs include embroidered, plaids, stripes, and prints, all perfect for home decorating.

Donna Sharp – This line of quilted purses is fabulously popular, especially in Amish Country. The Donna Sharp products are a premier brand of uniquely and expertly crafted quilted handbags. Each season brings new designs. Styles are often retired and customers are advised to purchase what catches their eye, as it may not be around for long.

Victorian Heart's Bella Taylor Collection – Another line of quilted purses that represents a similar, although uniquely different style. It is one of the fastest growing handbag brands for Jake's, and the quilted patchwork handbags are offered in a variety of sizes from wallets to overnight bags, true customer favorites.

Candles – Jake's has its own private label highly scented candles. This line has been at Jake's since opening in 1996. In addition to Jake's Candles, Swan Creek, Thompson's Candles, and Yankee Candles are available in countless scents.

Flags – Jake's carries several lines of standard flags, garden flags, mailbox covers, and yard art. Selections change according to the seasons. Whether the collection is from Custom Décor, Magnet Works, Evergreen, or Premier, Jake's is sure to carry it.

Clothing & Moccasins – Jake's assortment of T-shirts, PJ's, socks, and moccasins is vast. The Minnetonka Moccasin collection offers a fit for the whole family. The Mountain Corp has a variety



of silk screened prints, depicting wildlife, Native American, and woodsy designs. Another noteworthy line is from Lazy One, all about keeping folks feeling warm and fuzzy, from super comfy PJ's to cozy slipper socks—all served with a hearty dose of humor.

Sports Items, Tin Signs & Lodge Items – Ladies bring your spouse, after all he tags along with you at times. Jake's has an enviable line of sports memorabilia for the men including all the favorite pro teams. Bona fide sports guy Jeremy Jackson keeps up on the latest and greatest making sure Jake's selection is always current. The tin sign collection is especially popular, including examples of automobile, nostalgic, whimsical, outdoor sports, Harley, and many more. The woodsy collection includes knives, wildlife items, resin frames, and other things outdoors-centric.

Collectibles – Jake's carries collectibles, too. Jim Shore (have the latest Santa yet?) has been a long-time favorite at Jake's. The Jim Shore angelic designs grace this issue's cover, with the Jim Shore name itself a household name for much of America. Willow Tree is also a popular collectible line featured at Jake's.

Regardless of what any politician says, the Jackson's "Built this Business!" From the ground up, they've created a fun shopping experience, filling Buildings I and II with interesting merchandise, which I've only been able to but partially detail here.

If you have Holiday shopping of any kind yet to do, head out to one of the area's finest Country Stores. Jake's knowledgeable staff is ready to help you find whatever you're looking for, making suggestions along the way to assure your shopping satisfaction.

A sampling of Jake's Country Trading Post merchandise can viewed on the web at: www.jakesctp.com or www.superjakes.com. For more information call 717-687-8980. Jake's Country Trading Post is located on Route 30 just west of the village of Paradise, and just east of the Outlets. 



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The Greatest Christmas Display In The USA

by Brad Igou

Koziar's Christmas Village is a spectacular holiday display located on Christmas Village Road, two miles off Route 183 in Bernville. It has been a well known, family owned, seasonal attraction since its founding by

William M. Koziar in 1948. Every night the Koziar farm is transformed into a winter fairyland.

Driving through the darkened countryside, you will suddenly find yourself in a dazzling valley set aglow with more Christmas lights than you



have ever seen before. Adding to the magnificent beauty is the spectacular reflection of those thousands and thousands of lights in the lake situated in front of the main house.

Visit the various buildings filled with Trim-the-Tree ideas, indoor and outdoor train displays, glass-enclosed buildings, and many shops filled with unique Christmas displays, ornaments, and souvenirs. Enjoy the aroma of freshly baked cookies in the Country Kitchen and browse in Santa's toy shop filled with unusual toys and gifts for children of all ages. See the unique handmade train platform and follow the trains through the tunnels, across the trestles, around the miniature town located in the large Refreshment Barn. Come talk to Santa and his helpers, and see your favorite cartoon and fairy tale characters throughout the Village.

In its 64 year history, Christmas Village has received many awards, including Best Outdoor Christmas Display in the World, and the Award of Excellence as One of the Top Attractions in Pennsylvania. Visiting Christmas Village is truly like "Walking in a Winter Wonderland." You will take home many happy memories of an old-fashioned Christmas. 







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If Santa Had a Man Cave...He'd Fill It At Sam's!

by Clinton Martin

As every kid knows, Santa Claus lives at the North Pole, and judging by all the holiday stories, Santa's home and workshop are decorated to the hilt with beautiful Christmas finery. But, what about old Kriss Kringle's collection of records, old guitars, and beer steins? Well that's tucked away tidily in Santa's secret personal enclave within the candy-coated holiday paradise. Yes, Santa has a Man Cave.

What is a Man Cave? It is every man's four-walled sanctuary in which to express his own style and character. The Man Cave can be filled with amusements, food, beverages, or simply an over-sized easy chair and a stack of old records and a working turntable. What is sure --- the proper decorations must be secured to create an authentic Man Cave mood.

Sam's Man Cave, the undisputed go-to source for Man Cave materiel, is where generations of Amish Country visitors have procured their proper accouterments for over 40 years. Sam's Man Cave, the one-of-a-kind Man Cave supply store, is located along Route 30 in Lancaster, across from the Tanger Outlets, less than a half mile west of Dutch Wonderland. Hours are Monday through Saturday 10:00am to 6:00pm. Call 717-394-6404 or visit our website at www.samsmancave.com for details. 



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Amish Country News Holiday-Winter Events

- **Pumpkin Madness Festival at Cherry Crest**
 November 2-3
 Cherry Crest Adventure Farm, Ronks, PA
- **Hershey's Breakfast with Santa**
 November 17-December 23
 Hershey's Chocolate World, Hershey, PA
- **Beef 101- Selecting Meat For Your Holiday Table**
 November 3, December 13
 The Good Cooking Store, Intercourse, PA
- **Choo Choo Barn's Holiday Display**
 November 23-December 31
 Choo Choo Barn, Strasburg, PA
- **Autos and Ales**
 November 9
 AACAA Museum, Hershey, PA
- **Santa's Paradise Express at Strasburg Rail Road**
 Runs from November 23-December 16
 Strasburg Rail Road, Strasburg, PA
- **Eastland Alpacas Holiday Open House**
 November 12-December 30
 Kevin & Sue Zurin's Alpaca Farm, Mount Joy, PA
- **The Rat Pack Lounge**
 December 30-February 9
 Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, Lancaster, PA

by Brad Igou



After the Christmas program, life in the one-room school returns to normal.

I found particularly interesting another skit about a stranger with an unusual belief. He is mocked for saying there are eleven commandments. "Everyone knows there are ten!" he is told. The next morning the strange visitor has gone, leaving a note behind with the Bible passage where Christ says there is a new commandment, "to love your neighbor as yourself."

During one skit, we in the audience are asked to sing a verse of "Silent Night." It is fascinating to hear how some of the notes have changed over the years, since the Amish sing from memory without musical instruments. The melody is a bit different from the one I know, including a couple flourishes that remind me of Amish church singing.

In "The Hundred Thousand Dollar Boy" a lad is bemoaning the fact that he is so poor. A girl asks him if he would sell his legs for \$25,000, and continues with his arms, head, eyes, etc. The boy says no each time, and by the end the girl notes she has gotten up to \$100,000, the lesson being obvious that he is rich indeed.

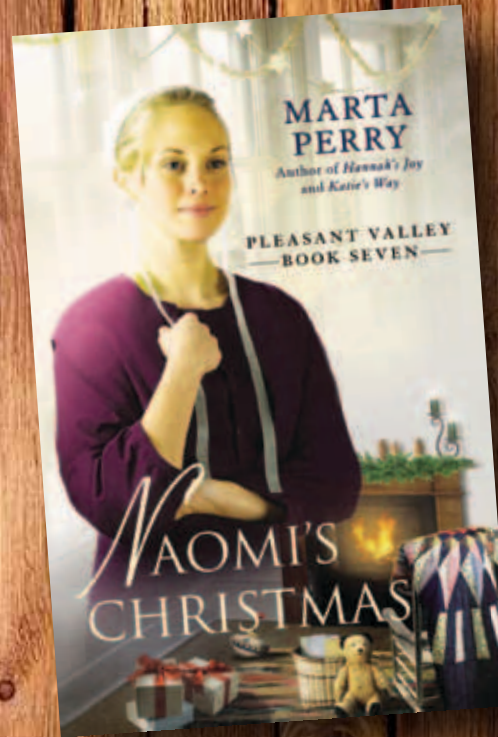
Nearing the end, another skit focuses on the innkeeper in Bethlehem and what he might have done differently had he known he was hosting the Christ-child, a message for those in attendance who "know Jesus."

A song familiar to many English children called "Wheels on the Bus" is sung, with appropriate movements as wheels turn and wipers criss-cross across the windshield. A brief "Consolation,"



Many Amish schools were originally built as rural public schools prior to 1950.

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- A Pennsylvania Dutch Christmas Craft
- Recipes for Pennsylvania Dutch Christmas Cookies

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In December, enjoy an exclusive
Pleasant Valley Christmas short story on Marta's website.

a kind of apology and thanks for everyone's patience, follows.

The conclusion is a "Tribute to Our Parents." First is a song all about Daddy, who's always there through their needs and challenges. A similar song about mothers follows. I was told that during the morning program each student left the stage to hand Mom a rose, resulting in many a teary eye.

There is no applause during the program, not until the very end, at which time the room fills with resounding hand-clapping as the relieved students come forth to extend their greetings, and run around a bit. Much of that pent up energy and nervousness, at least for the boys,

leads to kicking a soccer ball around outside. Arrangements are made for transportation home for those needing it, and we all are soon on our way, having been reminded of the true meaning of the Holiday and what joy we have in our children.

Certainly "performing" is not something normally practiced or even condoned by the Amish. But this program proved an unforgettable and endearing experience for me and I'm quite sure that this marvelous Amish tradition will live on into the future. When I arrived back at work and was walking from my car to the office through a damp, chilly rain, I knew perfectly well why I felt just a bit warmer inside. 🐾

Shopping With and For Style in Amish Country

by Clinton Martin



Baked Fresh, Wrapped Warm, and Sweet as a Gift. At Bird In Hand Farmers Market

Walmart? Make no mistake; this article is not about Walmart, Target or any other super-sized "mart." You may have heard someone say, or heaven forbid thought it yourself, that Amish Country has become too commercial, built-up, paved-over.

Yet, I submit that you simply need to pull back the veil, toss your wish list in the trash, and follow me, your Pied Piper of Holiday Shopping, on a step-by-step adventurous mission to fulfill your gift-giving fantasies that promises to leave all those Fortune 500 retailers in the rearview mirror. In fact, I'll be so bold as to say, "If you know where to shop in Amish Country, you know how to see and experience Amish Country at its most pure, traditional and authentic."

First, where to start? Well, no matter what time of day you decide to tote a shopping bag in Amish Country, it can't be more than an hour or two away from mealtime. So let's start by fortifying our bodies in preparation of our journey. While we're at it we'll pick up a few must-have gifts of the good-eating genre.

If the timing is right, baked goods are a wonderful option as they keep fairly well, don't need refrigerated, and come in right-sized options for gift-giving. Amish Country bursts at the seams with old-fashioned, from-scratch, family-owned and operated bakeries where one can find these yummy treats!

Shoo-Fly Pie is one of our area's signature sweet dishes. I'm going to have you head to the iconic **Dutch Haven**, the bake shop that made shoo-fly pie famous, with its unmistakable windmill making it a landmark on Route 30 just east of Miller's Smorgasbord. There you can enjoy a

free taste of this Amish Country favorite while you decide where the pies will end up, whether delivered by you personally or shipped, of course.

For Whoopie Pies, the other side of our most famous baked goods delights --- you know those fantastically sweet and moist cakes-gone-sandwiches --- you'll need to turn your car just a little west and south and travel to **Hershey Farm**. You'll find this bakery within a restaurant on Route 896 in Strasburg. Hershey Farm also happens to be the home of the annual Whoopie Pie Festival, an event that has become a rite of late summer here.

Now, as far as cookies go, save the elbow grease for your home-made baking encounter and come with me to the **Bird-in-Hand Bake Shop** on Gibbons Road. Here awaits a dizzying endless variety of tasty morsels. The bakery specialties will knock your Christmas socks off! My personal favorite is the Snicker Doodle cookie, and I never fail to engulf at least one with a cup of freshly brewed coffee before I walk out the door.

• **Dutch Haven 717-687-0111**

• **Hershey Farm 800-827-8635**

• **Bird-in-Hand Bake Shop 717-656-7947**

While it's hard to believe, there are times some people for whom sugary sweets just won't do. My solution --- if you can't do the sweets, do the meats! Again, Amish Country delivers in a big way as an agrarian-centered community like ours would, of course, offer excellent choices fresh off a butcher's block. The **Bird-in-Hand Farmers Market** is a popular stop along Route 340 with many old-world smoked meats and local cheeses. Thankfully, the market is open year-round Fridays and Saturdays plus Wednesdays through the end of November.

Absolutely not to be missed, and the subject of our most recent October issue cover story (readers loved the cover art and we did too), is the amazing Amish Country success story, **Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies**. These savory pies have "home-made" written all over them from taste to taste with generous chunks of tender meat tucked into a "can't-have-enough-of that flaky and buttery crust." The pies come in three varieties --- chicken, beef, and sausage. Perhaps a little unorthodox in terms of traditional gift-giving. However, they do ship and I can assure you that your creativity in this regard will be most appreciated!

For those on the list whose asterisk indicates "vegetarian," I've got a delicious snack and unique gift waiting for you at **Kauffman's Fruit Farm & Market**, just a little east of Bird-in-Hand on Route 340. It's called Apple Snitz and, for me, it's the apple's version of beef jerky. The chewy, bite-size sweet and tangy slice of dried apple also happens to be perfect for baking for

those so inclined. Again, a little different, but definitely delightful, and a sure surprise.

• **Bird-in-Hand Farmers Market**
717-393-9674

• **Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies**
717-768-0239

• **Kauffman's Fruit Farm & Market**
717-768-7112

Finally, for gifting Amish Country in a bottle, savoring one sip at a time with friends and family, the Amish Country you seek is quietly waiting in barrels, casks and a stainless steel tank or two at our orchards, dairies, and breweries. To begin, I must introduce to you **Beiler's Fruit Farm** on Route 897 between Routes 322 and 340 near White Horse. Here, a thriving orchard specializing in crisp, tart, and sweet apples in dozens of varieties is nurtured on this Amish family farm with its inviting road-side farm store. You won't be disappointed by the selection, and certainly not the quality of the jams, jellies, apple treats, and most notably, a superb uncompromisingly fresh unpasteurized Apple Cider made from a proprietary blend plucked orchard fresh. If I were writing 100 years or so ago, I would be exclaiming, "It's the Bee's Knees!"

Letting things sit and ferment into a more adults-only-please brew, the local artisan-brewery, **Rumspringa Brewing Company**, proves there are those in Amish Country who know and respect the noble themes of Hops, Malts, Worts, and Esters (all meaningful if you're into beer). Find your way to their IPA by traveling Route 340 between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse, looking for the big red barn on your right as you leave Bird-in-Hand.

Another favorite micro-brewery and also a great place to eat is the **Lancaster Brewing Company** on Plum Street in Lancaster City. You might even consider a gift certificate for an enjoyable dining experience in historic surroundings at this popular spot. You won't need mistletoe for the hug and kiss when you show up with a gift from either of these local favorites.

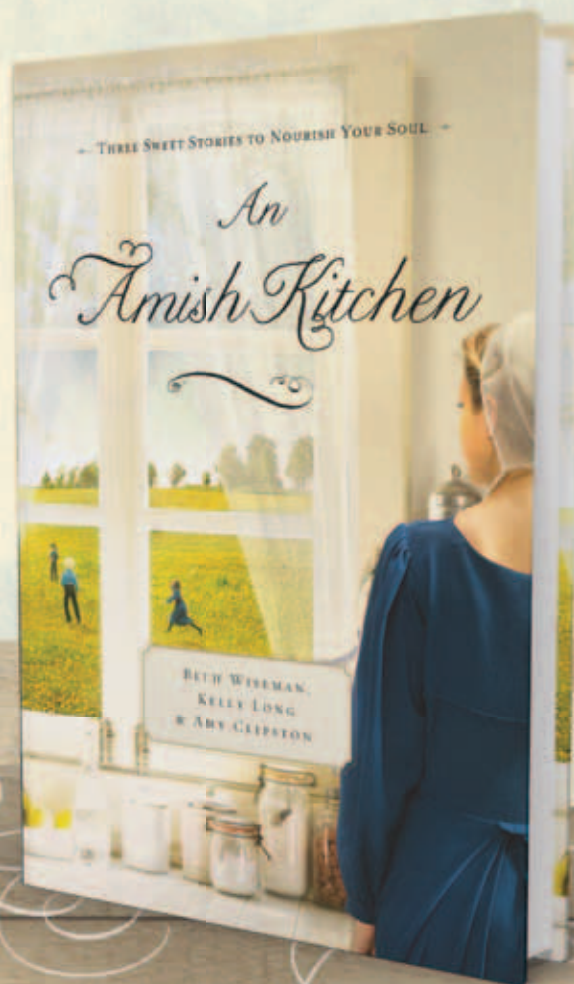
Continued on Page 12



With a Look Like Jelly Rolls, These Fabric Roll-Ups Are Available At Zook's Fabric Store

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Shopping With and For Style in Amish Country

(Cont'd From Page 10)

Now here's a gift that you can brag about as one that no one else has duplicated and have the time of your life in the process. Our destination is the **Verdant View Dairy Farm** on Route 741 east of Strasburg where you can milk a cow and turn the milk into cheese or ice cream right on the spot. No gift-wrapping available here but a perfect "mystery tour" for family and friends. Be sure to call ahead.

• **Beiler's Fruit Farm**
717-354-7228

• **Rumspingra Brewing Company**
717-768-7194

• **Lancaster Brewing Company**
717-391-6258
• **Verdant View Farm**
717-687-7353

With appetite satisfied and a few gifts packed away, more serious retail pursuits lie ahead. Traditional shops, boutiques, and variety stores are myriad in Amish Country, and no, I'm not including the big-box chains you can find in Anywhere, USA. In fact, the number of Amish entrepreneurs embodying the economic diversity of the Plain People is ever-increasing. While many Amish still farm for a living, many supplement, or even supplant their farm enterprise with small businesses. Here are a few of my favorites that will allow you to experience a true sense of Amish Country shopping as the

checkmarks on your shopping list become more visible. Just remember, all of the following businesses are closed on Sundays.

Country Housewares Store (717-556-0985). Michael Fisher and his family operate this all-around traditional home-goods store, stocking many of the items that the local clientele depend upon. As that customer-base happens to be largely Amish, the store's shelves include many items you simply don't find elsewhere, including old-fashioned hand-held kitchen wares, stunning yet simple glass wares, toys and children's books, and one of the best selections of harmonicas you'll find anywhere. You'll also discover the musical wall clocks that move and amuse and are so popular in Amish Country. Now, we're talking Amish Country gift-giving!

Country Lane Quilts (717-656-8476). Katie Stoltzfus and her family have always enjoyed quilts, devotedly sewing in the quieter winter months when the farm work is lighter. Their stitching skills became more and more expert and evolved into something more than just a hobby. Now a year-round business housed in the basement of their picturesque farmhouse, stop and shop for the many quilted offerings along with aprons, potholders, wall-hangings and more.

Esh Handmade Quilts (717-768-8435). Not far from the village of Intercourse, the Esh family farm has been passed down through four generations. Jake and his family happily continue the legacy of dairy-farming, but the ladies of the household contribute in a big way to the family business through their fine quilt shop next to the barn. For that extra special someone, you can have a custom quilt sewn to your exact specifications.

Esh Valley Quilts (717-442-8123). With a feature article in this issue on this Strasburg shop, all you really need to know here is to drive up the lane, park, and walk around the front of the house to the sunny walk-in basement. That's where you'll discover yet another wonderful world of quilts. Be prepared to gaze upon one of the best selections of crib quilts in Amish Country.

Gordonville Bookstore (717-768-3512). I hesitate to give away the location of one of my favorite shops in Amish Country. However, the greater good must prevail (and it is my job after all). This quiet and ever-so-quiet bookstore is filled with lots of unusual paper goods and supplies. Most of us have someone on our list for whom Amish-themed literature would make a special gift. Here are the popular "bonnet fiction" novels of Beverly Lewis, Wanda Brunstetter and others. But you'll also discover farmers' almanacs, devotional titles, and even a few old-time German prints too. Drive down Old Leacock Road off Route 340 between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse and look for the Bookstore off to the left.

J&B Quilts & Crafts (717-687-8889 ext. 3). Jesse is the J in J&B and the B honors the memory of family matriarch Barbara. The

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beautifully hand-made Amish crafts and quilts are a delight to behold. Old-fashioned wooden pull-toys are classic examples of days gone by, while the doll and baby-sized Amish clothes are sweet and tender reminders of simpler times. It is a well-stocked shop in the basement of the home and a must-stop for unique shopping.

Lapp's Quilts & Crafts (717-687-8889 ext. 1). The Lapp family lives next door to an Amish one-room school whose playground was once part of the fields they farmed. When farming no longer was their main livelihood they generously made the grounds available for the schoolyard. The Lapp family now has turned their Amish farm into a marvelous quilt and craft shop not to be missed. Multiple opportunities here to cross off a number on your list as the vast selection of crafts and canned goods, books and toys and quilted wall-coverings, kitchen linens and full-size heirloom quilts make ideal remembrances.

Leacock Coleman Center (717-768-7174). You surely have an outdoorsman or two on that list. Know that Amish people in general do truly enjoy the outdoors. In fact, Dave Esh and his family have a camp-fire story to share with you when you visit their camping and outdoor supply store. What started as a family farm a few generations ago, now houses one of the largest Coleman brand outlets in the region. Tents, sleeping bags, outdoor cooking supplies and wares, and a very impressive selection of Mountain Pie makers



Colorful Fabrics Hand-Woven Into Beautiful Crafts – A Common Sight at Riehl's Quilt Shop

makes this store a fantastic find for those campers, sports fans, and patio loungers.

Li'l Country Store & Mini Horse Farm (717-687-8237). A country store is self-explanatory enough, but don't pass this place by, even if you're nearing the end of the list. Henry and Linda Stoltzfus and family have filled their farm's store with one-of-a-kind crafted items including hand-worked leather craft, quilted books and potholders, as well as framed country art prints. Henry's on-site woodshop produces rustic country décor. Remember I promised that this would be a fun experience for you. Well, you'll fall in love with the miniature horses the Stoltzfus family raises. This is one part of the shopping adventure that the kids won't complain about!

Riehl's Quilts & Crafts (717-656-0697). This picture-perfect Amish farm belongs on a postcard. It is beautifully nestled among gently rolling hills and sports not only one of the more serene views in Amish Country, but one of the largest quilt and craft shops as well. The shop is a mortise and tendon barn structure filled high with pillows, quillows, chimes and many more locally made gift items. You'll no doubt enjoy the farm, but you'll find yourself lingering in the shop and, like many we know, end up with gifts for your own home as well as for others.

Smucker's Quilts (717-656-8730). Up the hill and through the dale, you'll find Smucker's Quilts down the farm lane next to this Amish family's farm. Rachel is truly enamored of quilting, so working in her quilt shop is a welcoming vocation, amid the wares reflecting the love of her art form. You're likely to see her quilting among the quilts she has in various stages of production when you enter her shop. Her work space itself is a well crafted stand-alone building next to the barn and house with every square inch devoted to her wonderful display of quilted items. Custom quilt orders are welcome, and shipping to your home or gift list is always prompt and efficient.

Witmer Quilt Shop (717-656-9526). Quite possibly this is the oldest retail quilt shop in Amish Country, where Emma Witmer has been matching visitors with their dream quilts for over 40 years. Weather permitting, her shop always

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has a quilt or two waving in the breeze on the wash line along the road, but don't let them monopolize your time. Inside awaits at least a hundred intricate designs, and Emma gladly explains the name and inspiration behind each. That she has even created a few of the stitch patterns herself gives you a hint of the creativity and beauty you'll discover inside these four walls.

Wolf Rock Furniture (717-442-8990). If you've been in Amish Country when fields are dotted with Amish families tilling the ground with horses and mules, you just might forget that many Amish have left the farm for the furniture shop. Wolf Rock Furniture is a great example of this Plain affinity for quality woodworking. Sam Beiler and the men in his shop put their hands

to work crafting beautiful hard-wood furniture, following Shaker, Mission, Chesterfield, and other classic styles. It's another one of those shops where the gift-giving just might be for yourself!

Quilts, crafts, and baked goods are certainly the more traditional Amish Country shopping venues. But experiencing our other retail pursuits helps paint a more complete picture.

Antiques & Collectibles

History and tradition make Amish Country fertile ground for antique collectors. You'll want to keep your eyes open for estate sales, barn auctions, and yard sales for sure. But a steadier antique and collectible dig is only minutes away.

Brickerville Antiques on Route 501 north of Lititz offers a year-round, daily antique gallery of individual dealers on two floors of a restored 1800s barn.

On Route 30 near the village of Paradise, **Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall** offers a huge selection of vintage items, including a fun 1950s Diner display and a fully stocked old-fashioned five and dime general store exhibit.

In Adamstown (you might have wondered when I would get to "Antiques Capital USA") you'll find **Renninger's Antique Market**, recently featured on Reality TV in a picker's show.

For the specific man-cave man in your list, there's no place better than **Sam's Man Cave**, a bar-sign and beer-stein haven with tons of tins, tubs, taps, and caps for the breweriana aficionado.

• **Brickerville Antiques 717-626-0786**

• **Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall
215-721-7497**

• **Renninger's Antique Market 717-336-2177**

• **Sam's Man Cave 717-394-6404**

Fabric Shops

Chances are there's a sewing friend on our list who would rather make their own family heirloom. Lend then your ear (more accurately, your eyes) as Amish Country is home to a quilting state of mind unlike any other part of the U. S. of A.

Along the northern edge of Amish Country, not far from Adamstown's antique shops, you'll find **Burkholder Fabrics**, a fabric shop with enough bolts to worry a weather man. The shop also carries many sewing notions.

Farther south, along the main routes of 340 and 30, **Dutchland Quilt Patch** offers two locations to supply the sewer or crafter, with finished quilts for sale as well as fabric, batting, thread and thimbles.

In the heart of Intercourse, **Zook's Fabric Store** specializes in both traditional solid color fabrics for the Amish set, and wild and colorful designs for the more modern seamstress.

Across the street are the **Shops on Main Street**, a row of retail options offering shopping bliss for the fabric-minded but also books, pottery, foods and gifts.

• **Burkholder Fabrics 717-336-6692**

• **Dutchland Quilt Patch 717-687-0534**

• **Zook's Fabric Store 717-768-8153**

• **Shops on Main Street 800-828-8218**

Furniture Makers

OK, this might well be for you, but does not charity, and exceptionally fine gifts, begin at home? And what's a sewing nook without a fully stocked sewing table? Well, our furniture shops create museum-quality pieces for any room in the home or business for that matter. A few of the pieces at AMISH COUNTRY NEWS headquarters are authentic Lancaster County



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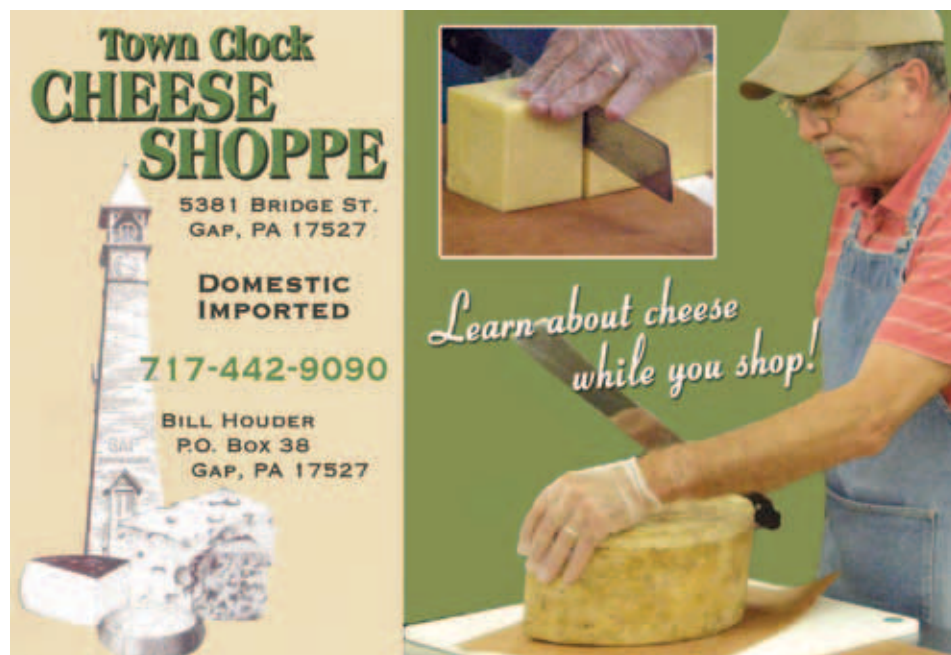
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Every Little Girl Needs At Least One Really Nice Dress. See the Fashions at Kahn Lucas Outlet in the Rockvale Outlet Center

Amish-made solid-wood furniture we're pretty sure will outlast the fittest of us.

Building furniture fits in well with the Amish Country ethic --- a good honest day's work, time-tested methods, and generational skills handed from father to son. **Blue Ridge Furniture** is a prime example of a much sought after multi-generational furniture business, making what they sell, and showing it only yards from the workshop at their showroom in the village of Churchtown.

Located at the Shady Maple Complex, **Country Home Furniture** is a gallery of hand-picked Amish furniture-makers, bringing together not only exceptional hard-wood furniture but artfully upholstered locally made sofas, loveseats, easy-chairs, and daybeds.

Showcasing the best of select Ohio and Lancaster Amish craftsmanship, **Gish's Furniture** along Route 30 proves that this retail-heavy mile of Route 30 boasts local family-owned shops, if you

just know where to look. Their dining room sets are especially grand, and the exclusive finishing process they utilize creates a unique stain and spill resistant surface.

- **Blue Ridge Furniture 717-445-6595**
- **Country Home Furniture 717-354-2329**
- **Gish's Furniture 717-392-6080**

Specialty Retailers

The unique, the interesting, and the extra-special are all smartly found in Amish Country at a number of local boutiques, including the largest doll store within 1,000 miles, **Aimee & Daria's Doll Outlet**. Shopping brain waves at work, I'm sure. Step inside to discover the realistic to whimsical to quaint Amish dolls. This amazing doll outlet has both ready-for-play dolls, and collectible display-worthy porcelain works of art.

Another largest-of-its-kind store, the **Country Knives** cutlery store is just a few miles east of Intercourse. Country Knives literally carries thousands of knives, but also provides just about anything that has a sharp edge. Shears, machetes, scissors, razors, even butcher blocks are part of what makes Country Knives one of the world's largest selections of knives under one roof.

Calling for one of Country Knives' fine cigar cutters, **John Hay Cigars** in Intercourse offers a fine smoke to those cigar lovers (and there are more and more of them). Using exclusive locally

grown tobaccos to roll their own proprietary classic cigars, John Hay Cigars is the finest local source for a grown, rolled, and made in Amish Country cigar.

Ladies, gentlemen, bikers, and scoundrels know that to shop for clothing at Wal-Mart is next to a sin, albeit a tiny one. For them, to Amish Country they must go. **Killer Hats** on Route 30 offers dozens of ways to top one's "bright spot" in extreme, memorable fashion. You'll be giving that someone special something special for sure when you cross items off your list with a selection from this store, unlike any other's huge variety of apparel including belts, buckles, chaps, shirts and, of course, hats of all sorts!

Aimee & Daria's 717-687-8118
Country Knives 717-768-3818
John Hay Cigars 610-796-7551
Killer Hats 866-443-7279

Home Décor and Accents

Finding a house gift that is Amish Country inspired is definitely possible here, but not all country or primitive offerings are created or offered equally. **Country Creations**, just north of Strasburg, fills what obviously was once a barn with beautiful home fashions including unusual hooked rugs and designer lines of jewelry and apparel.

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thousands, the **Flower & Craft Warehouse** reminds me of a wholesale club of décor and craft items where the public is welcome. Great and unending Holiday gift ideas are here.

Featuring not only unique and memorable gift ideas, particularly for the hard-to-please, but also occupying this Holiday issue's cover story is one of my favorite shopping haunts at any time of the year, **Jake's Country Trading Post**. This ever-

growing shopping paradise of plenty guarantees one country store treasure hunt you'll never describe as boring.

And finally the **Old Candle Barn**, whose roots trace to an Amish family making candles in their barn to the area's authority and prime source on candles (when is a candle not a welcome gift?), with plenty of additional primitive and rustic merchandise to match and help finish off the list.

- **Country Creations 717-687-8743**
- **Flower & Craft Warehouse 717-355-9975**
- **Jake's Country Trading Post 717-687-8980**
- **Old Candle Barn 717-768-3231**

Curds and Whey

No way? Yes whey! Some things get better with age (I hope this article is such, at least until next year's Holiday Shopping Guide) and shopping in Amish Country rewards those who wait for just the proper ripening. When it comes to cheese, Amish Country boasts not only those who sell exceptional cheeses, but those who make it right on the farm, and those who age it to their own specifications in a personal cheese cave.

The maker in this case is the Rotelle family of **September Farm Cheese** near Honey Brook. The Rotelle dairy farm supplies the main ingredient in their cheese of course, and the actual processing of the cheddars, jacks, and colbys is done right here too, all the way down to hand-waxing the bars of cheese. You'll be pleased to find perfect Christmas gift arrangements of their award-winning cheese.

As for aging and cheese-caving, Bill Houser continues his family's multi-generational obsession with cheese by operating a palate-pleasing cheese shop at the landmark old **Town Clock Cheese Shop** in Gap. He stocks hard-to-find cheeses from all around the world, reserving a few wheels from time to time to age in his own

on-site cheese cave, a stone-walled, underground chamber built into the basement of his shop. The process yields complex 10 to 15 year aged cheddars that can be sampled and bought only at this time of year. Is there a special foodie on your list?

- **September Farm Cheese 610-273-3552**
- **Town Clock Cheese Shop 717-442-9090**

I certainly am not encouraging you to shop until you drop. And so, with shopping options like I've featured, you'll likely need at least a couple of days in Amish Country to fulfill your fantasy. Fear not, with classy lodging options and hundreds of bed and breakfast rooms, you'll enjoy your hours with us, especially at this time of the year.



Amish Craftsmen Have a Keen Eye for Building Fine Furniture. See This Piece and More at Country Home Furniture

Remember, the pick of the crop lies not only in our fertile fields, but in our bakeries, bargains and shops of the unusual filled with soon-to-be cherished treasures and timeless heirlooms to be found throughout Amish Country.

From the AMISH COUNTRY NEWS family, and my own, to you and yours, may the joys of the Holiday Season bring you happiness and memories that last a lifetime! 🐾

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Quilting: A Man's World

by Clinton Martin

Quilts are everywhere in Amish Country. In the most obvious way they are seen throughout the area adorned with “for sale” signs, many in small family-owned shops on Amish farms, others in beautiful galleries, and still others preserved in museum-like display. In a less obvious, but still widespread way, quilts are part of everyday local life, as Amish and English families alike use quilts as bedding,

decorations, or even as family heirlooms handed down through generations, traveling from one “hope chest” to the next.

It isn't hard to understand why quilts are so well loved by both locals and visitors in Amish Country. They fit in so easily with traditions of hand-made, slow-work quality. Family ties, lasting bonds, and quite simply “warmth” are all associated with them, and of course they are artistically appealing and are a practical excuse for something very pretty.

So, who makes all these quilts? I am sure when asked, most people would imagine the dim light of a lantern casting a flickering glow over a tightly stretched spread of fabric, and a deftly moving needle and thread picking its way across the patchwork landscape, firmly in the hands – of course – of an Amish woman. Amish women do indeed represent a goodly number of quilters here, especially when it comes to quilters sewing pieces for sale. However, quilts in Amish Country aren't necessarily always Amish, as countless clubs, guilds, and individual artists stitch their own creations, creating quilts inspired by all walks of life.

Some of the most unexpected sources for quilts in Amish Country are men. The world of quilting, both here in Amish Country and elsewhere, is dominated by the fairer sex, but there remains a strong following among men who in turn pursue proper stitching and piecing.

One of the most well-known male quilters in the Country is John Flynn. Flynn, who grew up in Billings, Montana, found his way into quilting through a most traditional source. His wife Brooke had gotten into quilting, and he decided to put his hobby woodshop to work and provide her with a sturdy quilting rack. After completing the frame, and helping Brooke hang the first layers of fabric, he sat down with her to run a few stitches, just for kicks. Well, something truly kicked in that day, and he was hooked on the repetitive and flowing movement. He was soon quilting every spare moment he had, and in meeting others, was introducing the world of quilting to men around him.

Today, Flynn makes quilting, or at least the frames for them, his full-time profession, and he



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"Lifelines III" Quilt by Ricky Tims

maintains a popular quilting blog at <http://johnflynnquilts.blogspot.com>. As in previous years, he plans on attending the American Quilter's Society show at the Lancaster County Convention Center, slated for March 13-16. See AmericanQuilter.com for more information on the show.

The AQS show draws quilt enthusiasts from all over the world, and with attendance of

well over 10,000 people the various classes are often filled to capacity. Men also are participants in this side of the quilting world, with even some of the classes taught by men. At the 2012 show, noted quilter Ricky Tims taught piecework and techniques that he calls "Caveman" style, basically an improvisational method of patterning where the quilter's muse is allowed to roam free in a steam-of-consciousness type of stitching. Ricky Tims got interested in quilting through a passion for music, as the artistic nature of quilting, and the deft hand movements were reminiscent to him of playing the piano or strumming a guitar. Composing a new quilt involved some of the same creative thinking as writing a piece of music.

Today, Tims works full-time as a quilter with his own year-round gallery, while also nurturing a professional recording career. As a prime example of a "caveman" quilt, his recently award-winning "Lifelines III: Can Something Come from Nothing" won first prize at the International Quilt Festival in Houston. Regarding the naming of the quilt, he notes, "The past couple of years I

began playing with inserting long, skinny, 'V-shaped' wedges into my patchwork, similar to putting in a gusset only way longer and skinnier than normal. I called these inserts 'lifelines' because they reminded me of the lifelines on our palms. In this case, I also wrote a poem and stitched it into the quilting. The lines of a poem can also be called 'lifelines' if they have some sort of life message." The poem...

Can something come from nothing?

Can we stop the hands of time?

The road of life moves forward,

And the past is left behind.

Try looking out for Ricky Tims in person at the 2013 AQS Show in Lancaster, or simply read more about him online at www.rickytims.com. 

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"Gifts That Make A Difference"

by Clinton Martin

The spirit of the Holiday season encourages us to take time to reflect on the needs of others. Some seek to strengthen ties with their families. Others, through their churches or simply on their own, reach out to help those less fortunate, often complete strangers. While the holiday season is maligned for its commercialism and signs of greed, the essence of the Holiday is very much intact, and in fact, in terms of mankind's good will there is much to rejoice about.

It is a real joy for us at AMISH COUNTRY NEWS that our Holiday/Winter issue should shine a light on the valuable work quietly going on under the radar throughout Amish Country under the auspices of supporting the locally

headquartered Mennonite Central Committee. The MCC (as it is known by many) may call Amish Country its home base of operations, but the humanitarian causes it supports reach out to every corner of the Globe. I encourage you to learn more about MCC projects at www.mcc.org.

Funds to support the MCC come from many different sources, but a large portion are generated right here in our own backyard. Over 12 million dollars of the MCC's annual budget come from a most unexpected source, a network of Thrift Shops throughout the US and Canada. The largest concentration of MCC-supporting shops is in Pennsylvania (19 shops) and the largest concentration in our state is, of course, right here in Amish Country (five and counting).

Each of these shops is independently operated, but shares a common goal of applying the profits generated to support the MCC. In most cases, each shop will only have four or five paid staff people, relying on hundreds of volunteers to keep the stores clean, stocked, and selling. Virtually all the merchandise is taken in by donation, sorted, and displayed for new uses, new homes, and new owners. Items are closely screened and ensured of quality standards before they ever hit store shelves.

Putting your shopping genes to work to benefit worldwide humanitarian missions, while scoring some real bargains on unique, useful, and interesting merchandise is a pleasure any time of the year, but it seems even sweeter during the

Country Gift & Thrift Shoppe

On Route 340 in the Village of White Horse
5602 Old Phila. Pike • Gap
717-768-3784
www.countrygiftandthrift.com
 Mon-Fri 9-5 • Sat 9-4 • Closed Sun

Ephrata Re-Uzit Furniture

On State Street Just South of Ephrata
1054 S. State St. Ephrata
717-733-4934
 Mon-Thur 9-5 • Fri 9-8 • Sat 9-3 • Closed Sun

Ephrata Re-Uzit Shop

On the Square in Downtown Ephrata
20-22 E. Main St. Ephrata
717-733-4982
 Mon-Fri 9-5 • Sat 9-4 • Closed Sun

holidays. So, gather your retail senses, bring a friend, and shop Amish Country's exceptionally unique concept, the Thrift Shop network. A shop-by-shop guide is our pleasure to provide to you. Please note that all of these shops are open Monday-Saturday, and are closed Sundays.

Country Gift & Thrift Shoppe

This shop is in its 21st year, occupying a former grocery store in the village of White Horse along Route 340. It is completely surrounded by the Amish Country visitors come to see. Amish farms, rolling hills, quilts waving in the breeze. Speaking of quilts, Country Gift & Thrift has a gallery of hand-made quilts, pieces that were literally hand sewn onsite by Amish & Mennonite volunteers. There is no set schedule to the quilting; the women simply come and go as they have time, but the quilts they finish are on display and for sale, with 100% of the proceeds going to the MCC, of course. Beyond the quilts, the store is stocked with a constantly changing selection of quality used clothing, vintage antiques and collectibles, and fabrics and craft necessities too. Look for seasonal Christmas items up filling the shelves through the holidays.

Ephrata Re-Uzit Clothing & Housewares

The small-town of Ephrata, in many ways, embodies the best of small-town Amish Country. There is plenty to do in this picturesque borough, including some excellent thrift shop bargain-browsing. The Ephrata Re-Uzit shop is located next to the old train station, now the town's visitor center, with plenty of free public parking. With one of the thrift shop network's widest selections of clothing, this store offers a fine way to clothe the kids, mom, dad, friends, family, and even grandma and grandpa. There is also plenty of glassware and kitchen items, plus a well-stocked toy corner full of dolls, trucks, puzzles, and plush animals.

Ephrata Re-Uzit Furniture & Books

Also in Ephrata, conveniently located on State Street, is a furniture and book warehouse not to be missed. Luxurious lovingly-used leather couches and sectionals are available at fantastic prices, while a large selection of wooden furniture like hutches, dining room sets, and desks and end tables are on display beside an impressive variety of upholstered choices. Sharing space in this store is also an extensive selection of books and other media. The easiest way to reach this store is to head North on Route 272 from Lancaster, taking State Street at the Y (use the Wendy's as your landmark) and turn right into the parking



MORGANTOWN Re-Uzit Shoppe

Just West of Morgantown on Route 23
 2769 Main St. Morgantown
 610-286-7233
 Mon-Fri 9-5 • Sat 9-3 • Closed Sun

lot of the store directly after turning onto State Street.

Morgantown Re-Uzit Shoppe

Morgantown is often considered the gateway to Amish Country from the east. It is an easy hop and skip off the PA Turnpike, the first welcome to Amish Country many visitors see, and can be easily reached from Berks, Chester, and Lancaster Counties. On Route 23 just west of Morgantown stands a Re-Uzit shop full of thrifty and useful finds. This store has everything for daily life's necessities. Apparel, décor, home goods, toys, gifts – shop here before you go to a regular retail store. You'll probably find what you're looking for, save money, and support a worthy cause all at the same time. A great collection of vintage collectibles and antiques is a fun bonus.

Re-Uzit Shop of New Holland

About 11 miles west of the Morgantown store, at the intersection of Route 23 and Shirk Road in New Holland, is a very special thrift shop. This is quite possibly the largest thrift shop in the entire MCC-supporting network. Retail space alone accounts for 26,000 square feet of display items, with the entire building occupying 40,000



Re-Uzit Shop of New Holland, Inc.

At the intersection of Rte 23 & Shirk Rd.
 707 W. Main St. New Holland
 717-354-8355
 Mon-Fri 9-5 • Sat 9-4 • Closed Sun

square feet! Their year-round Christmas room is stuffed to the rafters through the end of the year, but plenty of furniture, clothing, crafts, gifts, decorations, appliances, dishware, hardware, antiques, collectibles, etc. is available in this multi-floor bargain hunter's paradise. Known for its bright, clean atmosphere with friendly, helpful staff, this store is a delightful way to wile a few hours away in Amish Country. Throughout the store, references to important MCC projects can be seen in posters, brochures, and other helpful literature. As a tip, if the parking lot in front of the store is full, you'll find more spaces behind the building.

I hope I've said enough. The shops are all about unexpected shopping finds at prices even more unexpected. 'Tis the season after all --- do yourself a favor and, without even knowing it, you've lent a helping hand to many in need all around world. 

After all, when Scrooge found the real meaning of the Holiday that fateful Christmas Eve, and Tiny Tim told us "God Bless Us, Every One", were we not reminded well to keep the spirit alive each and every day of the year? Here's hoping we do just that!

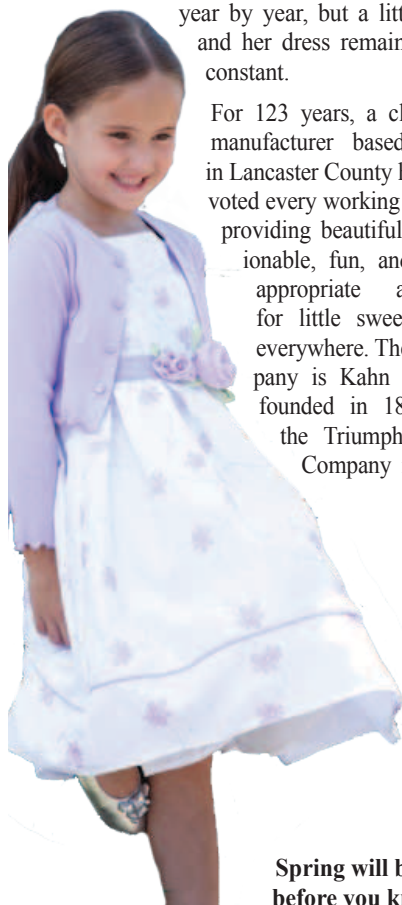
Youngland By Kahn Lucas: Worldwide Clothing Brand Completely at Home in Amish Country

by Clinton Martin



Original Factory in 1912.

Over the years, America has had its little sweethearts. Little Orphan Annie danced and sang her way into a generation's hearts and Shirley Temple with her curly locks was a huge star by the age of six. Who isn't charmed by a little girl playing, smiling, all pretty in pink? I remember well when I was growing up how excited my sisters became when it was time to go shopping for their Christmas, Easter, or Back-To-School dresses. From this guy's perspective, it seems to me that every little girl needs at least one really special dress in her closet. The fashionistas of a generation change year by year, but a little girl and her dress remain ever-constant.



Spring will be here before you know it.

For 123 years, a clothing manufacturer based here in Lancaster County has devoted every working day to providing beautiful, fashionable, fun, and age-appropriate apparel for little sweethearts everywhere. The company is Kahn Lucas, founded in 1889 as the Triumph Shirt Company in two

humble Lancaster County farmhouses. Concentrating on family-friendly design, quality, value, and customer service from day one, Kahn Lucas steadily grew from those two houses-made-headquarters to a now international brand with offices throughout the world. The 4th generation family-owned company is still headquartered here and continues to showcase its roots with an exclusive outlet store, Youngland, A Kahn Lucas Outlet, on Route 30 as part of the Rockvale Outlet Center. All of the company's exceptional brands are available at attractive outlet prices and the on-site photo backgrounds provide for exciting interactive family shopping.

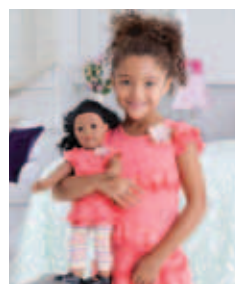


Matching Sunflowers - How Cute!

The variety of apparel is best described by the exclusive Kahn Lucas lines. SWEETHEART ROSE is for girls with classic style who dress to make every day special. The BLOOME DE JEUNE FILLE style is updated and trend-right for sophisticated girls as they blossom into young ladies. YOUNGLAND is clean, classic, and represents American styles ranging from casual everyday wear, to fun formal dresses perfect for any special occasion. For trend-right styles that even moms love, fashionable girls who want to show off their own personal style have made EMILY WEST one of Kahn Lucas' most popular choices. JENNY & ME offers exceptional style and quality, all at the right price.



Entire Staff of Kahn Lucas in 1946.



Popular Styles from the Dollie & Me Brand.

Those little girls do love to dress up - and it's so much more fun with a friend! Now with matching outfits, girls and their dolls can step out in style with DOLLIE & ME. Finally, KRAZY-LEGS is your girl's chance to make a big, bold statement without saying a word. Offering a bright and vibrant fashion statement for anytime and anywhere, the brand is little girls standing out and shouting: I AM ME!

The DOLLIE & ME brand was clearly innovative when it was created, but in 2009 Kahn Lucas took a step further and partnered with the highly popular Madame Alexander doll collection (now an integrated brand within Kahn Lucas) to offer matching dresses for girls and the famous dolls. The complete DOLLIE & ME product line consists of matching dresses, sportswear, sleepwear, dress-up, jewelry, hair accessories, fashion bags, travel bags both for little girls and the famous 18-inch dolls. At the Kahn Lucas Outlet in Lancaster, your little girls can pick out a Madame Alexander doll, shop for matching clothes and accessories, and then capture it all in a fun photo-shoot using the store's background scenery.

For those families with a little girl who would love this shopping experience along with another little one that might not, there is a playground right in front of the Kahn Lucas Outlet store, perfect for keeping one entertained while the other enjoys her special shopping treat. The outlet store also has a play area inside the store complete with a TV set playing children's silver-screen favorites.

Shop the Youngland by Kahn Lucas Outlet Store seven days a week Monday through Saturday from 9:30am to 9:00pm and Sundays 11:00am to 5:00pm. Rockvale Outlet Center is easy to find on Route 30 at the intersection of Routes 30 and 896. Call the store at 717-396-7860 for information, and read more about Kahn Lucas online at www.kahnlucas.com. 

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Our Favorite Things - Gifts From Amish Country

by The Staff of AMISH COUNTRY NEWS

This holiday season, the turkey will be carved, the tree trimmed, cards sent, and gifts given. For those of us who live and work in Amish Country, many of those tokens of cheer shared with loved ones will be gifts unique to Amish Country. While we locals may travel out of the area to visit relatives, we'll likely take a piece of Amish Country along with us as a heart-warming gift. When it comes to the staff at AMISH COUNTRY NEWS, we all have a favorite stand-by gift when it is time to give a little Amish Country to our friends and family.

Let us share a tip about what we give, and where you can get it!



**A Finely Stitched Quillow
at Country Lane Quilts**

"When I want to send the perfect Amish Country gift to one of my friends, especially those who live abroad, it is usually a quillow. For those who may not know, a quillow is a quilted blanket that folds up into a pillow, the front of which usually has a quilted design. It can be used to wrap yourself up on a cold night or to make yourself comfortable sitting on the sofa.

Whether shipped overseas or within the USA, it's a light, unbreakable, and practical gift with the handmade warmth (literally) of Amish Country stitched right in! Quillows are available at many area quilt shops. Reference page 18 and 19 in this issue for a handy quilt-finding guide."

—Brad



A Lovely Bite of Chocolate Pecan Pie

"What could make Pecan Pie any better than it already is? Why, adding chocolate pieces, of

course! The Chocolate Pecan Pie from Dutch Haven (page 3) is a must for your holiday parties. In fact, I am not even allowed to go to Pittsburgh for Thanksgiving without it! Everyone needs to save just a tiny, little space for a small slice. Once you try it, I promise you will enjoy it, either heated and gooey or straight from the refrigerator. Even my Amish friends agree that it is 'a little piece of Heaven in your mouth'."

—Shannon

"One of my favorite Christmas gifts to send to friends and family who extend from Michigan to Florida is a customized gift tin lovingly packed by the staff at Intercourse Pretzel Factory (page 50). I trust them to create a delicious blend of sweet and salty with a surprising blend of "spicy" added in! My loved ones are delighted to open up their collectible tins and rush to savor their personal selection of chocolate covered pretzels, garlic flavored pretzels, and whatever other crunchy delectable munchies await."

—Sherri



**Dressing the part isn't necessary to
enjoy a John Hay Cigar, but it is fun**

"THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA is such a great novel, but admittedly it doesn't have much to do with Amish Country. However, when I think of the grizzled old man sitting onboard his vessel noting his pursuit of the great marlin by lamp-light, I right away can't help but think of an Amish family sitting around that same dancing flame, playing Scrabble or enjoying a hearty meal. Yes, old-fashioned oil-lamps are still very much in demand here in Amish Country, and the hundreds of different designs, from simple tin to ornate colored glass hints at a slightly more than simply practical nature of this Amish Country household staple. To see a grand selection, visit The Leacock Coleman Center (page 50). It is Amish Country's oil-lamp superstore"

—Clinton

"There are so many wonderful gift giving ideas that originate in Amish Country, it is difficult to



**Beautiful Colored Glass Oil
Lamp at Leacock
Coleman Center**

choose just one. For those men in my life that enjoy that occasional cigar after a good meal, John Hay Cigars is where I go to select the perfect gift. Located in Kitchen Kettle Village, the shop is just down the street from my office. Upon entering the shop the various tobacco aromas heighten one's senses. The cigars are made from locally grown tobacco while some are imported from other countries. One can choose single cigars or the sampler packs John Hay Cigars offers, which is my choice for gift giving. The buyer may also choose from other cigar related gifts such as lighters and humidors. The men in my family really enjoy receiving a gift selected just for them, but it doesn't make me real popular with the women in their lives."

—Dawn



**Intercourse Pretzel Factory bakes
up both soft and hard pretzels**

"When it comes time for me to think about holiday gifts, I stick with the baked goods that Amish Country is so well-known for. The Bird-In-Hand Bake Shop on Gibbons Road is where I go to pick up an assortment of whoopie pies time and time again. Everyone tends to have their favorite kind of whoopie pie (chocolate, pumpkin or red velvet). If it is a last minute gift, I tend to stick with the traditional chocolate whoopie pie, which is always a safe bet. Beware, however, it is hard to leave with just a few whoopie pies. Sometimes a couple of delicious homemade pies and fresh cookies somehow make it into my bag as well."

—Sam 

Christmas, Amish Style

by Sarah Price

No Christmas trees. No evergreen wreaths. No Santa Claus. No red bows or bells. From an outsider's point of view, it would be easy to believe that, to the Amish, Christmas would be the year's most important and most festive holiday. However, it's a day set aside for focusing on the family and God, not for gifts and abundance. After all, the Amish are called the Plain People.

So how do the Amish celebrate Christmas?

It varies from church district to church district but, for the most part, they wake up as early as usual, and go about their regular chores. From then on, the day is spent relaxing and enjoying each other's company. In the late afternoon or early evening, they celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ by sharing a nice supper with their extended family. They might sing some hymns, but it is definitely a low-key day.

You might be surprised to learn that Amish people do not attend church on Christmas, even if Christmas falls on a Sunday. While I understood about the missing Christmas trees, eggnog, bright decorations and gifts aplenty, I was quite taken aback when I learned of the lack of a Christmas Day church service. After all, even the most non-religious people I know still go to church at least twice a year: Christmas and Easter!

"It's about the family," one of my Amish friends told me. We were riding in a buggy, returning from a trip to a local yarn shop. She was teaching me how to knit scarves for holiday gifts. It was the perfect time to inquire about how she would celebrate the holidays. "And we have our Christmas service on the Sunday before or after Christmas. Sometimes we will have it on Saturday if Christmas falls on a Sunday. That way, everyone can enjoy the day of Christmas with their families."

After it was explained to me, it made sense. You see, the Amish don't celebrate church in a dedicated church building. Back in the 1600s, when the Anabaptists began to form their religion and strayed from the traditions of the Catholic Church, they met secretly in houses and barns. After all, they reasoned, didn't Jesus proclaim that "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." (Matthew 18:20)

My friend continued by explaining that it would be too stressful for any one family to host the Christmas service as the days and weeks leading up to that service are spent cleaning the house and preparing food for the noon fellowship that follows the three-hour long service. While many help clean up afterwards, that host family would not have any time left in the day to enjoy their



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family or to travel to another district to see aging parents or siblings.

Gift giving is also quite minimal. Children may get a special toy from their parents such as ice skates or knitting supplies. Aunts and uncles might give younger children small gifts such as a wallet or a handkerchief. But that's the extent of gift-giving. The emphasis is on God, Jesus, and family...in that order. When I asked my friend if she had ever given her own parents a gift, she had to think about it and, finally, laughed as she said, "Why no! I don't think us children ever did!"

Over the past twenty-five years, I have continually learned from these amazing people who are so strong in their faith and their commitment to each other. This year, I intend

to follow their example by simplifying my own Christmas and making certain that Christ remains at the center of it. 



Sarah Price is a best-selling author of Amish Fiction. Some of her titles include *Fields of Corn*, *Valley of Hope*, *The Tomato Patch*, *The Quilting Bee*, *Amish Circle Letters*, and *A*

Gift of Faith: An Amish Christmas Story. Her books can be found on Amazon.com, BN.com, and Kobo.com. She can be found on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/fansofsarahprice> and on her blog at www.sarahpriceauthor.com.

THE AMISH IN THE MEDIA - Second Edition

To wrap up this year's series, I decided to look at stories about the Amish that have crossed over several media, from book to movie to musical. In October, I was fortunate to have an exclusive interview with Dan Posthuma, the producer of Beverly Lewis' THE CONFESSION musical. My thanks to Dan and also to Donna Dorough, general manager of the Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant and Stage, where the musical has been playing.

The CONFESSION Interview

by Brad Igou



Brad: Your background is as a producer of music and concerts. How did the idea of creating a musical from the Beverly Lewis Amish novels come about?

Dan: I had been producing some concerts for Mel Riegsecker of the Blue Gate Restaurant and Theater in Shipshewana, Indiana, and he was looking for some major artists, such as Sandi Patti, Marty Stuart, and the Oak Ridge Boys. I was there three or four times a year and fell in love with the area. I had heard about the genre of Amish fiction, and Mel was familiar with authors Beverly Lewis and Wanda Brunstetter. The 1955 Broadway musical PLAIN & FANCY continued to be popular at Amish Acres in Nappanee. So I took a couple of months reading and looking for a story that I thought would work well on the stage. I liked the Beverly Lewis "Heritage of Lancaster County" trilogy and called her to negotiate a deal to produce a musical combining the three books.

Brad: What changes did you make from book to musical?

Dan: I did not have a lot of experience in producing a musical, but this was a powerful story I wanted to do. A good story usually evolves out of people making difficult decisions. The strong moral framework of the Amish community makes these decisions and challenges that much more powerful. However, I felt the story needed some humor to appeal to a broader audience, and not just those who enjoy Amish romance novels. I brought on Martha Bolton, who has written for the likes of Bob Hope, to write the script. Wally Nason came on as director. He began feeding me songs he was writing and I

decided to have him do all the songs. I don't know how we did it in seven months!

Brad: How did the show come to Bird-in-Hand?

Dan: I knew Lancaster is an important area of Amish interest. I knew Tim Landis, a Christian concert promoter here, and he had a long-term respect for the Smuckers in Bird-in-Hand. He felt they would understand the heart of what I was trying to do and would be good people to partner with.

Brad: Now you have produced a second musical, HALF-STITCHED, which opened in August in Shipshewana, and will be here in Bird-in-Hand in 2013.

Dan: THE CONFESSION was so successful that Mel at Blue Gate wanted something new, yet totally different. So we decided to do a comedy. Have you heard of CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES?

Brad: Yes, that show just played here at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre.

Dan: I was also thinking of the BREAKFAST CLUB movie and how that group of characters came together. So I thought of marrying these ideas to a quilting club, with an Amish widow putting an ad in the newspaper, expecting "regular" quilt ladies to show up. But she gets a mix of people, including a biker guy, college girl, preacher's wife, and a married couple in therapy. I suggested the story to Wanda Brunstetter, who wrote the novel based on my ideas. It was published in April and went onto the NEW YORK TIMES best seller list.

Brad: What else can you tell us about producing this new show?

Dan: I brought in the same production team and between the two shows auditioned 6-7,000 actors over the last two years. In HALF-STITCHED, because of the diverse characters, there is a real variety in the styles of the songs. There are also some surprising twists and turns in the plot. The Amish widow

is, of course, surprised at who shows up for her class. But she understands how God will take all the disparate pieces of our lives and use them all in a beautiful way.

Brad: Have you seen the 2011 Hallmark Channel movie of THE SHUNNING, directed by Michael Landon, Jr.?

Dan: Yes, it was very well done, and the second book in the series, THE CONFESSION, comes out on Mother's Day!

Brad: Why do you think these stories are so popular at this point in time?

Dan: They address spiritual ideas in the context of the characters. I want my art to reflect my faith but it is important for me to address that in ways that are respectful and meaningful "for those who have ears." A good, intelligent story usually involves the bigger questions of life and how they play out. At times, we are looking for guidance to help us understand things beyond our "normal understanding," as an important part of faith. A lot of younger people are looking at the world and where it is going. What are the stable elements of life they can build on? What's transitory? What's vital to our human existence? What distracts us from what's of value?

Brad: And how does that relate to an Amish story?

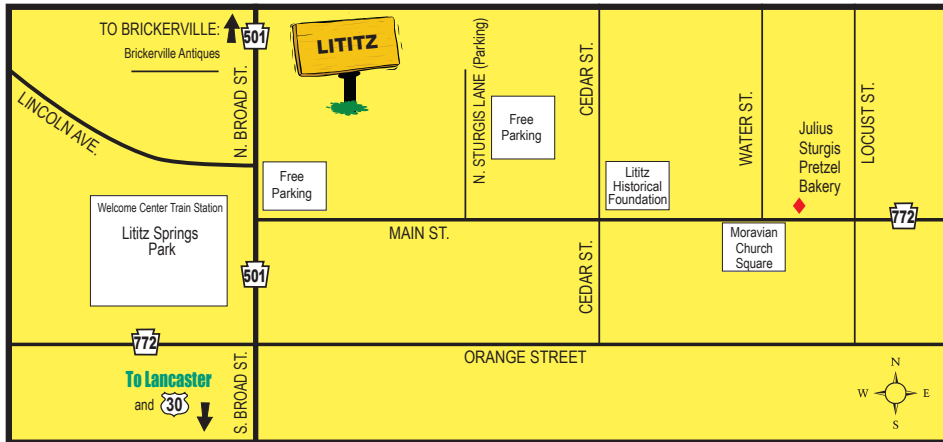
Dan: It has that Amish cultural setting to make the point. People are intrigued by it... how they make decisions, what brings them joy. They don't want to become Amish, but they can learn something about that approach that helps them maybe make better decisions in their own lives.

Brad: Donna, what has been audience reaction here in Bird-in-Hand?

Donna: Some people are coming back to see the show a second time. There is a mix of emotions. It's a rollercoaster of emotions that everyone can relate to. Even husbands who have been "dragged along" to see the show are gushing at the end when they greet the actors, saying "I'm so glad I came." Also, the adoption storyline resonates with some visitors.

Continued on Page 27

Historic Lititz • A Hometown Treasure



There really is no place quite like Lititz, and visitors should plan time there while in Amish Country.

The Lititz story is tied to that of the Moravian faith in Bohemia. As was the case with other persecuted religious groups in Europe, many Moravians sought freedom in the New World,

arriving in the early 1700's, with settlements in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. In 1755 the town actually took the name Lititz, the German spelling for Lidice, where European reformers had taken refuge in the 15th century.

Music and education were important to the Moravians. In fact, the Lititz schoolhouse

erected in 1746 marked the beginnings of what was to be Linden Hall, the oldest continuously operating residence school for girls in the United States.

For one hundred years, Moravian church members were the only people permitted to live in the town. It was not until 1855 that non-Moravians were allowed to own their own homes. The complex of buildings comprising the Moravian congregation is well worth seeing, particularly the church built in 1787.

One name is linked forever with the history of Lititz --- Julius Sturgis. It was Julius Sturgis who opened the first commercial pretzel bakery in the New World in Lititz. The year was 1861, and the site at 219 East Main Street is on the National Register of Historic Places. A tour of the bakery, still in operation, is unlike any other and well worth your time.

The more you explore Lititz, the more you'll agree it is one of Amish Country's best kept secrets! 

The Amish in the Media (Continued from Page 26)

Brad: Have any of your Amish employees seen the show?

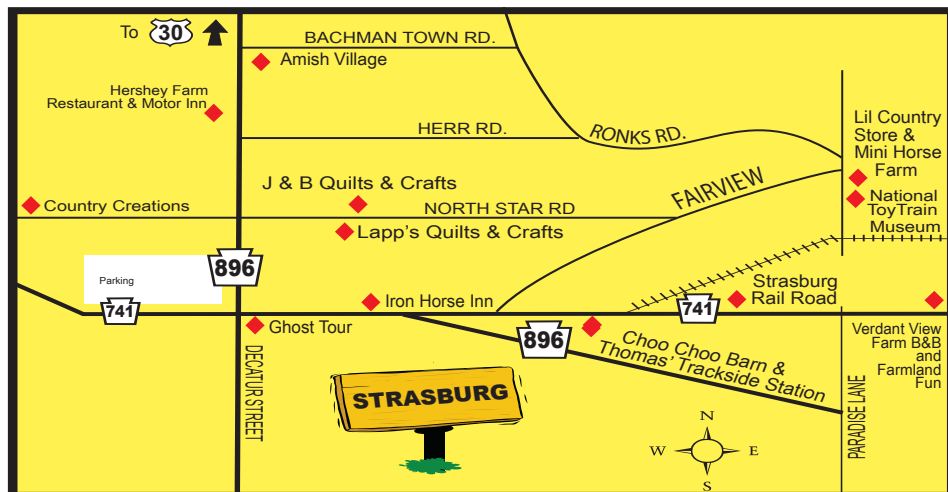
Donna: We invited all of our staff to see the show. The Amish loved it, thought it was very true and believable for Lancaster County Amish. There were adjustments to the look of the clothing and hair, plus some minor script changes as well.

Brad: Is there anything else you'd like to add, Dan?

Dan: Let me get back to the spiritual aspect. I've long known the power of a great song, but what I realized was its combination with a great story. When there is also humor, people's defenses are down and more open to ideas. I think you communicate stories in a way people will hear at a different level, like all those great stories Jesus used to explain simply something that was difficult to understand. 

Beverly Lewis' THE CONFESSION will be at Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant & Stage through November 30, 2012, and then be back from March 27 - August 24 in 2013. Wanda E. Brunstetter's HALF-STITCHED runs for a limited engagement September 10 - November 30, 2013. Tickets are now on sale. For group sales show/meal packages for 20 or more call 717.768.8400, ext.221.

Strasburg - A Town of Trains & Heritage



All aboard! Strasburg is a destination all its own in Dutch Country, home to many well known attractions. To name just a few --- the Strasburg Rail Road, Sight & Sound Theatres, Ghost Tours of Lancaster, Cherry Crest Adventure Farm, National Toy Train Museum, and the Choo Choo Barn. But you may not know much about the interesting history of "Train Town."

Strasburg, named for the city in France, was actually "founded" by a Frenchman, Pierre Bezaillon, who traded with the Delaware Indians. The story goes he came to the area in 1693, as French fur traders opened up the first path through this area from Philadelphia to the Susquehanna River.

As early as 1716, when the first wagon was used for hauling goods, the path became known as the Conestoga Road, and the wagons that traveled them eventually became known as Conestoga Wagons. Main Street Strasburg was developed during the next half century as traffic on this road increased considerably and the first log houses appeared in the village about 1733.

Strasburg continued to flourish in the 18th century primarily because of its location

along the major wagon routes between Philadelphia, Lancaster, and the Susquehanna River.

As Strasburg flourished, so did its neighbor to the east, Philadelphia. The commercial interests of Philadelphia pressured the State Legislature to improve the transportation network into their city. As a result, a series of canals along with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Roads were constructed. Strasburg residents became alarmed at the possibility of losing their commercial position and there soon emerged a charter for the Strasburg Rail Road to construct a rail line connecting Strasburg with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Road main line near Paradise. Finally in the 1850's, trains were hauling freight and passengers.

About 100 years later, business had dwindled, and a severe storm in 1957 destroyed much of the track. It seemed the SRR had reached the end of the line. To the rescue came a group of local train enthusiasts who began bringing the SRR back to life in a totally new way. They added passenger cars and buildings, and today's Strasburg Rail Road was born, destined to become one of Dutch Country's top attractions.

Appropriately enough, the State decided to build an expanded Rail Road Museum of Pennsylvania across the street, the ideal place to preserve the history of railroading in Pennsylvania. With the other train attractions nearby, it's little wonder that Strasburg has earned the title of Train Town! 



Lancaster County's
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Esh Valley Quilts... From Crib To King

by Clinton Martin



Quilts for Sale! Quite a common sight in Amish Country, as the deftly sewn handicrafts are certainly considered one of our destination's calling cards. If you're like most, you're at least somewhat interested or intrigued by the thought of your own patchwork remembrance of Amish Country. So where do you turn? There's the tried and true Quilt Finder Section of AMISH COUNTRY NEWS where you'll never go wrong. For this Holiday/Winter issue I'm particularly featuring one shop that I know first-hand will satisfy your quilting curiosity and needs --- Esh Valley Quilts.

Esh Valley Quilts, so named for the Amish family that runs this shop out of their home, offers wonderful quilts in all sizes and shapes. But Esh Valley also happens to feature one of the finest selections of hand-made crib quilts that you'll see anywhere. Many of the quilts are sewn by Mrs. Esh herself, although she does enlist the help of a select few nearby ladies to help keep the shelves of her sunny walk-in home basement filled.

Crib quilts are fun to buy for yourself should you have a bundle of joy at home (as do I), but also make perfectly memorable gifts for friends and loved ones welcoming a new addition into their

family. They can even be used as a wall-hanging. At Esh Valley Quilts, you'll find quilts perfectly sized for today's crib designs, hand-sewn with color selections and fabric prints that match well with popular nursery themes. Notably, Esh Valley stocks quilts in traditional boy and girl selections, but also has neutral motifs for those "surprise!" baby showers. I find it particularly useful that no matter the size, quilts can be custom created to order if you have a design vision in mind.

You'll enjoy your visit to Esh Valley, Monday – Saturday (the shop is closed Sundays and religious holidays). Head east on Route 741 out of Strasburg and continue six miles or so until

you see the Esh Valley Quilts sign off to the left (shortly after you pass by S. Vintage Rd.) Turn left down the lane, parking in front of the house. Walk through the little arbor, down the path in front of the house, and step into the basement. For more information, call 717-442-8123, although you'll probably need to leave a voice message for a return call. 🐄

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Dolls Galore at Aimee & Daria's Doll Outlet

by Clinton Martin

Remember those cute and cuddly Cabbage Patch Kids? In the 1980s they were all the rage, and collectors and casual fans alike continue to make the dolls much sought-after today. Or perhaps you were more into the mid-80s parody of the Cabbage Patch Kids, those rascally Garbage Pail Kids? Whether it's Cabbage Patch, Garbage Pail or any other doll in any size, shape or form, you're in for a memorable visit when you step inside Amish Country's world of dolls, Aimee & Daria's Doll Outlet on Route 30.

Stopping in recently, the classic Cabbage Patch dolls quickly caught my eye, but soon I was walking the aisles of everything from vinyl toy dolls like the ones your kids can play with, to hand-painted works of porcelain art, the doll collector's treasure. Aimee & Daria's has dolls from two inches to forty-two

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inches tall and the variety in size, shape and design include a huge diversity in ethnicities, nationalities, and races. There were literally dolls representative of every corner of the globe.

The store stocks over 5,000 dolls, a sizable selection unmatched by any retailer within 1,000 miles of Aimee & Daria's. Whatever your interest in dolls - as a collector, memory maker, or simply as a gift for a family member, when in Amish Country you've got to make time for A & D. Just try holding back an "Awwwww" when you see the on-site Baby Doll Adoption Nursery Center.



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Two big teddy bears hold babies swaddled in their arms, overlooking a realistic looking new-born nursery like you see in the movies.

Aimee & Daria's also offers classes for doll-making, dressing, even doll hair-care instruction, and the staff is always happy to arrange for doll tea parties and birthday celebrations. Look for Aimee & Daria's Doll

Outlet just a mile west of Miller's Smorgasbord, or two miles east of the Outlets. For GPS users, 2682 Lincoln Highway East, Ronks PA. Aimee & Daria's is open every day except for Monday. Hours are 10:00am to 5:00pm. Call 717-687-8118 for additional information or visit www.dolloutlet.com.

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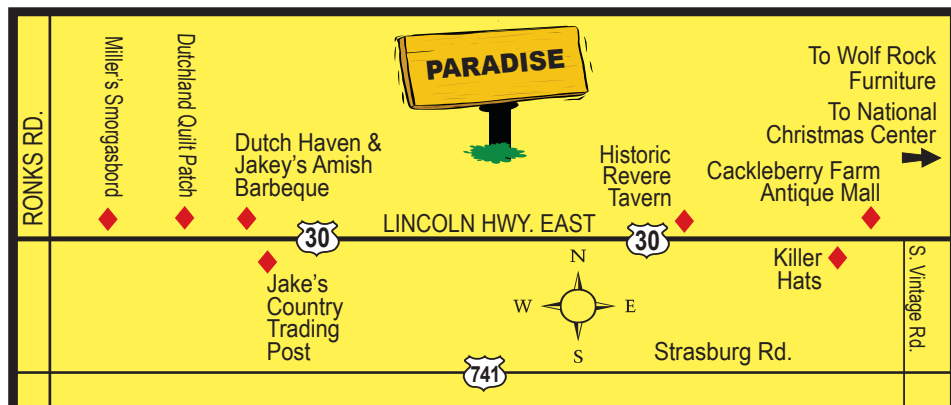
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Welcome to Our Paradise



Visitors to Lancaster from the east on RT 30 travel through Paradise, which celebrates its 300th anniversary this year. The town's story traces back to Europe over 300 years ago, to the area of the Palatinate in Germany where Protestants had settled following the declaration of King Louis XIV that all Protestants in France would be persecuted. Fearing a French invasion, many accepted the invitation to settle in the New World in William Penn's colony of Penn's Woods. By 1712, they had secured land in Lancaster's Pequea Valley as the area's first white people, living peaceably with local Indians.

The origins of RT 30, also known as "Lincoln Highway," date back to Lancaster's Colonial days when the frontier county needed a highway to connect it with the provincial capital of Philadelphia. The first road that was constructed is now RT 340, still referred to as the "Old Philadelphia Pike." Soon, it was apparent that this road was insufficient to handle the increasing traffic, and in 1790, a commission to survey a new route was created. Since the cost was too much for the state to undertake, the company charged with building it was given the power to demand "reasonable" tolls from users. Investors received dividends earned from tolls collected along the gates of the turnpike. (As the toll was paid, the gate or "pike" was turned, hence the term "turnpike").

The Act described the construction of the highway, which was to be a bed of small crushed stones on top with, rather than dirt, larger stones underneath to prevent carriage wheels from cutting into the soil. This revolutionary system of road construction is credited to a John McAdam, whose name became the term for paved or "macadam" roads. The "Lincoln Highway" (RT 30) opened in 1795 as the first long-distance, hard surfaced road in the country. Taverns and stagecoach stops grew up along the turnpike for weary travelers. Of these, the Revere Tavern,

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dating back to 1740 and originally called the "Sign of the Spread Eagle", still proudly stands today. In 1841, the tavern became the residence of Reverend Edward V. Buchanan and his wife Eliza Foster Buchanan. Eliza was the sister of Stephen Foster, whose immortal songs will always be a part of Americana. Foster not only penned music at the tavern, but sent many of his manuscripts to Eliza, also a talented musician, for her approval. On the banks of the Pequea Creek, Eliza and Stephen played many of Stephen's 200 songs, including "Way Down Upon the Swanee River" and "Oh, Susanna." Wherever you happen to call "paradise," we hope that a little bit of our own Paradise won't do you any harm!

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Smells, Smiles and Memories... Shopping at the Old Candle Barn

by Clinton Martin

So many Holiday memories are linked to aromas and scents. I remember the living room smells when my father cut the twine wrapping our freshly cut Christmas tree and the branches sprung out filling the corner of the room, magically spreading wonderful evergreen scent throughout the whole house. Or the aromas from the kitchen when my mother set out sheets of homemade Christmas cookies to cool, bouquets of peanut butter, chocolate, sugar, and molasses mixing and mingling, tempting my senses.

When I stepped into the Old Candle Barn recently, these were some of the memories washing over me, brought on by the hundreds of candles lining the old wooden shelves beside the front door. The Old Candle Barn, as the name implies, sells candles – nearly 500 different scents to be exact, to be enjoyed from various bases, wax, beeswax, palm oil, even durable plastic, “candlelit” by batteries. But the Candle Barn is far more than just a shop for sweet and spicy candles. No sooner did I walk by a massive candle display than did I see a seemingly endless variety of old-fashioned, rustic primitive home decorations and lighting.

Many of the candle varieties, as I came to understand, were made right on site. The basement of the Old Candle Barn is an active manufacturing operation, producing candles by hand, dipping them layer by layer until ready to be cured and then wrapped for sale. As it turns out, it's how the Old Candle Barn came to exist.

It was in the late 60's, and a couple by the name of John and Fannie Beiler (rather common names among the local Amish population, in case you're wondering the origin) began making

Continued on Page 34



A Holiday Roomscape at the Old Candle Barn



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Old Candle Barn
(Continued from Page 33)

candles in the basement of their home. Tourism was still somewhat new to Amish Country, but the couple recognized a good business idea when they saw one. Their business grew rapidly, and by 1982 they had built a brand new, old-fashioned,

Swiss-style barn right in the heart of Intercourse, that most famous of Amish Country villages. They named it the Old Candle Barn, but perhaps their best decision was to purposefully build their store back from the street, allowing for a large parking lot in front, a welcome feature in the village of Intercourse, which is wonderfully walkable, but less parkable!

Today, the building is more than double its original size and the second family (the Hursts) of Old Candle Barn ownership is welcoming visitors from all over the world to shop, chat, and spend an hour or two wandering the fun country décor of this 28,000 square foot store. With a selection of pottery, homespun goods, braided rugs, potpourri, primitive dolls, gameboards, curtains, linens and other textiles, as well as many other primitive items, the Old Candle Barn today is filled to the rafters with nearly as many decorative choices as there are candle options.

The Old Candle Barn is worth a visit year-round, but on November 30th and December 1st you'll especially enjoy a visit for the popular annual Holiday Open House, which is simply lots of fun with sales, samples, deals, and entertainment.

The Old Candle Barn is located on Route 340 in the village of Intercourse. The store is directly across the street from the American Military Edged Weaponry Museum. Look for the large sign painted on the roof. For GPS or other mapping services, type in 3551 Old Philadelphia Pike, Intercourse. Hours are 8-5 Monday – Saturday, closed Sundays. Call 717-768-8926 for more information, or visit www.oldcandlebarn.com



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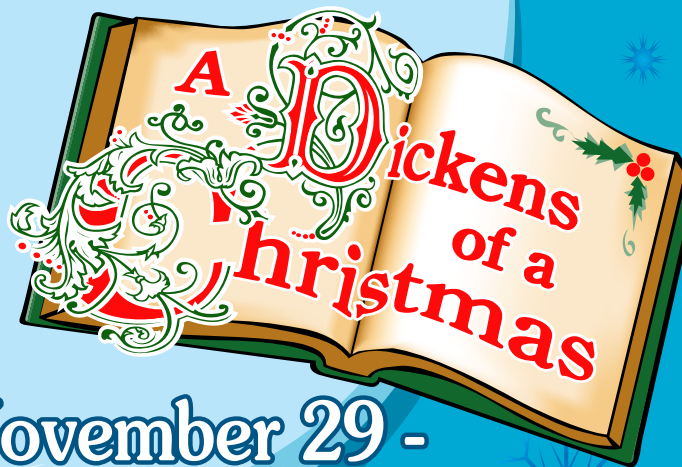
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Special to Amish Country News

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For the nostalgic shopper, housed inside the antique mall is an Old Time General Store, full of vintage barber shop, ice cream parlor, hardware and drugstore memorabilia which will take you back to the Mom & Pop stores of years ago. Not Just Baskets, located next door to the Cackleberry Farm Antique Mall, carries a huge selection of

baskets, quilts, luxury gifts and everyday items to choose from. You can fill a basket with any assortment of treats from pottery to spice mixes, quilts to candles, cookbooks

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Welcome to New Holland • Blue Ball

The instability in Europe in the late 1600's spawned and nurtured the pioneer interest in the deep forest lands of Pennsylvania — 60 miles inland from Philadelphia. In 1681 William Penn received his 40,000 square-mile land grant to settle King Charles' debt to his father. Himself a Quaker, Penn had experienced religious persecution firsthand, and decided to establish his American colony based on complete religious freedom.

This entire century had been one of continued misery for the peasants of the Palatinate (western Germany). The Thirty Years War had raged across the area with barbaric ruthlessness. The peasant inhabitants fled to nearby Holland for refuge. And within a decade of the end of that conflict, King Louis XIV of France started a new religious war in the same general area. These Palatinate peasants were exhausted by war's desolation, and were ripe for a new start. Traveling land agents for William Penn's new colony found listening ears. In addition to religious freedom and a peaceful existence, Penn offered cheap land. The stated price was 100 English pounds for 5,000 acres. (At today's rate exchange, this would be less than \$.04 an acre). By the year 1702, a goodly number of Palatinates had immigrated to Pennsylvania, and Queen Anne, newly reigning in England, was delighted that Penn was colonizing his immense grant without drawing off the population of Britain.

The area today called New Holland was practically covered by virgin forests—sturdy timbers of oak, ash, chestnut, and walnut. By 1728, William Penn had been dead for 10 years and his American colony, called Pennsylvania, was being administered by a proprietary governor while the sale of land was formalized by patent deeds.

In 1802, when a post office was established and an official name was necessary, there was no objection to naming the town New Holland.

These grateful people remembered how extremely kind the inhabitants of Holland were to them, and the assistance that included funds to cover the cost of the refugee German immigrants' ocean voyage.

This was no small matter when the alternative was indentured service for a period of years. For adults, indenture frequently meant four to seven years of labor without pay. Minors served until their 21st birthday. But still, William Penn's Quaker Pennsylvania was liberation compared to the Europe they fled seeking freedom of religion, assembly and speech for all, hopefully, none of which we take for granted today.





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Christmas at the National Christmas Center

by Clinton Martin

Prior to his magical Christmas Eve night, good old Saint Nick never fails to set up temporary shop at the National Christmas Center, an Amish Country tradition families from near and far have looked forward to for many years.

Beginning Thanksgiving weekend, Santa greets all comers daily at the Christmas Center with wonderful memory-making-opportunity "Photos with Santa" options available in various

modestly priced packages. Children meeting Santa are encouraged to bring their wish-lists, as the friendly old chap is happy to peer through his spectacles as he confirms the requests of all the good little boys and girls.

The National Christmas Center and Santa certainly go hand in hand, but the Center isn't only about the jolly old soul in red. With more than 20,000 square feet of life-size walk-through exhibits, the National Christmas Center portrays the heartwarming Christmas season in wonderful ways, from the old-fashioned five and dime store



decked out in its holiday finery, to the little town of Bethlehem on that fateful night, to the whimsical Tudor Towne with animated characters in a Victorian Christmas "across the pond." There is certainly plenty to see at this family attraction with a second-to-none Christmas shop on site, which is even more special during the Holidays.

In all, the National Christmas Center, open year round, is comprised of fifteen large galleries, with dozens of smaller constantly changing exhibits. Hours are seven days a week 10:00am to 6:00pm, with extended holiday hours through December 24th. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$5 for children, and under age 3 free.

Enter 3427 Lincoln Highway, Paradise PA in your GPS, or just head east on Route 30, looking for the National Christmas Center on the left about six miles east of RT 896 and the outlets. Call 717-442-7950 for more information or visit www.NationalChristmasCenter.com.

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12 Years Strong!

Visitors to Lancaster County love to experience the serenity of days gone by.

Part of this experience includes the delicious foods of the area and the handcrafted products of furniture artisans, including the still very much in demand Amish furniture.

One place that offers both is the world famous Shady Maple complex.

When Shady Maple Smorgasbord moved into a larger building across the parking lot a few years ago, the former restaurant building became home to one of the largest and best furniture stores in the area, Country Home Furniture.

The store is now celebrating its 12th anniversary in business.

According to management, "We like to think we're helping to preserve a little piece of America's furniture making history. Our craftsmen are steeped in tradition. They deeply care about their work. That's what Lancaster County is about – history, pride and dignity."

On two floors and 30,000 square feet of selling space in their retail store, you will find eight manufacturers of American-made sofas and recliners, made in North Carolina, Ohio and Mississippi, in addition to over 30 manufacturers of solid wood dining, bedroom, office, occasional and entertainment... and the area's largest selection of Amish furniture.

The hardwood pieces come from American hand-crafters and Amish builders in Ohio, Indiana and right here in Lancaster County.

With hundreds of stylish products in traditional, transitional, modern and country looks on the floor, there is something for everyone.

Unlike other stores where your only choices are what you see, at Country Home Furniture, you can have a hand in every facet of your design. That's the beauty of shopping there.

Customers love the flexibility to have a piece made for them by selecting the wood, stain, hardware and fabric.

"We sincerely encourage you to experience this for yourself. You can certainly buy off the floor or have something made new for you, as you see it. 50% of our customers do that. The other 50% let their imagination run wild. We have stain block boards and fabric handles available throughout the store to give our customers the opportunity to engage in the fascinating process of getting exactly what you want in the style, shape, size and color desired. It's distinctive furniture, made for you, your way. It's fun, and it's easy."

Why shop now? "We have all kinds of special pricing deals and delivery specials going on right now, and we are looking forward to finishing out 2012 in a great way."

If beautiful, quality, brand new, solid wood, American handcrafted furniture are important to you, then you owe it to yourself to explore Country Home Furniture. As they like to say, it's "worth the drive to the countryside" to come see the craftsmanship first hand, then enjoy your meal at Shady Maple Smorgasbord - two great things that make Lancaster County famous.

Country Home Furniture is open Monday and Friday 10-7, Tuesday through Thursday 10-5, and Saturdays 9-5. The entire complex at Shady Maple is closed on Sundays. 🐾

For more information, call 717-354-2329, go online to www.chfs1.com or email sales@chfs1.com. GPS address is 1352 Main Street, East Earl Township, PA.

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Through the End of the Year... Amish Farmlands Tours in a Quieter Season

by Brad Igou

With the passing of October and the leaves of Autumn comes November, the month Amish and "English" alike give thanks, and then December with its most celebrated holiday of the year. Without a doubt, it is the beginning of a quieter, more peaceful time in Amish Country. The pace noticeably slows and the entire area becomes quieter with far fewer visitors on the roads. It's a relaxing and ideal time to tour the farmlands and to see where the Amish call home in a different light.

The area's oldest tour operator, Amish Country Tours, has provided shuttle bus tours of the farm-

lands since 1959. Its special holiday tours run seven days a week in November and Saturdays and Sundays in December. A 90 minute tour is an interesting and insightful look into the Amish and their culture with particular mention of Amish holiday customs.

A certified guide leads the way along roads least traveled by visitors. Tuesdays and Thursdays in November are the height of Amish wedding season and it's not uncommon to pass by an Amish farm hosting a wedding, marked by the



many carriages filling the yard. School age children continue their studies in one-room school houses and are frequently seen playing games at recess time.

When we're lucky enough to encounter an early snowfall, nature creates one of the most spectacular scenes you will find anywhere. Imagine vast panoramas of rolling hills and farmland blanketed in pure white beauty. Add an Amish family out for a ride in a horse-drawn sleigh and you're looking at a Norman Rockwell right before your eyes

The Amish Country Tours guide typically stops at a bake shop, roadside stand or craft shop, sometimes in an Amish home, so that visitors might have some personal contact with Amish, who more and more, turn to cottage industries to supplement or even supplant their farming income.

Of course, more than anything else, visitors learn a great deal about the Amish way of life from the area's only certified guides. Education, church services, farming, weddings, holiday celebrations and changing lifestyles are among the tour topics.

Tickets are available at the Amish Experience Theater, at Plain and Fancy Farm, Route 340, between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse. Shuttles are limited to 14 passengers and advance reservations are strongly suggested. Call (717) 768-8400, ext. 210. A special Super Saver package, including a tour of a replica Old Order Amish house as well as admission to the critically acclaimed JACOB'S CHOICE shown on the hour at the Amish Experience Theater is the best visitor value. 

The Amish Speak...

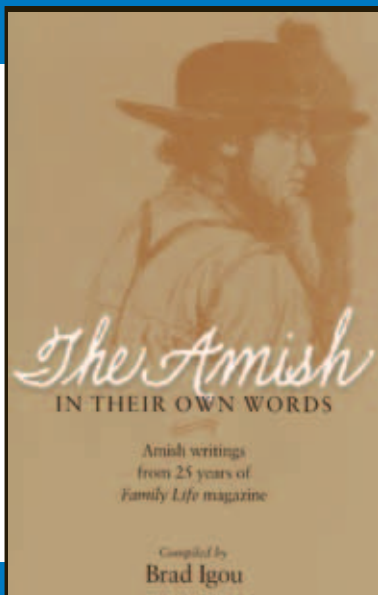
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--Jack Brubaker, *The Scribbler*, Lancaster New Era

"Much popular literature on the Amish taps into sentiments of nostalgia or sensationalism, revealing more about the author and audience than about the Amish themselves. This book lets the Amish speak in their own voice."

--John D. Ruth, Director, Mennonite Historical Library



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Available at the Amish Experience, Plain & Fancy Farm, Berean Bookstores, by phone and online at leading book web sites.



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Dollars in Prize Money Awarded at the Annual American Quilter's Society Convention at the Lancaster County Convention Center

All That Glitters at the Flower & Craft Warehouse

by Clinton Martin

Remember those classic Christmas movies that you love to watch over and over again every year? "Every time you hear a bell ring, an Angel gets its wings!" Only a Scrooge of Epic Proportions won't recall the movie that gave us that treasured line. Yes, whether it's the doorknob that greets old Ebenezer that fateful Christmas Eve or the Official Red Ryder Carbine-Action Two-Hundred-Shot Range Model Air Rifle that little Ralphie longs for in A CHRISTMAS STORY, the season definitely is filled with its wonderful symbols that rekindle so many memories for each of us.

Yes, every Holiday classic seems to have its critically important reference, be it a bell or perhaps a sprig of mistletoe. Remember that old silk hat on Frosty's head? Snoopy's red Christmas cap? Simply put, cherished holiday memories are often tied to physical things. Ready for some good news? All these wonderful memory-joggers and more can be found at the Flower & Craft Warehouse right here in the middle of Amish Country!

While you'll find a year-round Christmas room at Flower & Craft, this time of the year your senses will be bombarded by a Christmas Wonderland as the entire store (and it is massive, fully deserving its Warehouse name) reflects the Holiday Season in all its glory. From common to not-so-common tree ornaments to window dressings and endless displays, home inspiration and creativity abound with a festive boost. Greens, candles, Santas, reindeer, ribbons, bows, and paper goods pack the shelves, with so many more seasonal delights that simply could not be condensed into any reasonable list. You have to see this Holiday store to believe it.

Choosing but a few of my favorite finds on a recent visit, please indulge me as I describe my own newest additions to our home's Holiday décor.

Old Timey Milk Jug



I love the look of those old-fashioned milk containers, but I simply don't have the space in my home to plop down a life-sized metal one in the living room. Besides, the authentic antique jugs are highly collectible, and their price reflects that. I chose rather to pick up one of the ceramic nine-inch-tall recreations at the Flower & Craft Warehouse which offered a number of decorative pieces, each artistically inscribed with festive messages. In this case, I chose a

straightforward "Merry Christmas!" The pine tree design on the jug will blend beautifully with the warm decorations which always appear in our living room for the Holiday Season. This little find was clean, simple, eloquent, and a nice buy at under \$10.

Here Comes Santa Claus

Right down Santa Claus Lane and...into my shopping basket! If you know who owns the rights to that song, please don't report my borrowing that line (after all, imitation is always the greatest form of flattery). Flower & Craft had what seemed like thousands of different Santa designs,

so I chose very carefully which would become our 2012 representation of the bearded do-gooder. The one I pulled from a shelf on high had a time-honored and somewhat classically woodsy appearance. Absolutely no Santa holding an iPhone and a martini glass on the beach enjoying his summer vacation will ever cross our threshold. This is the Father

Continued on Page 43



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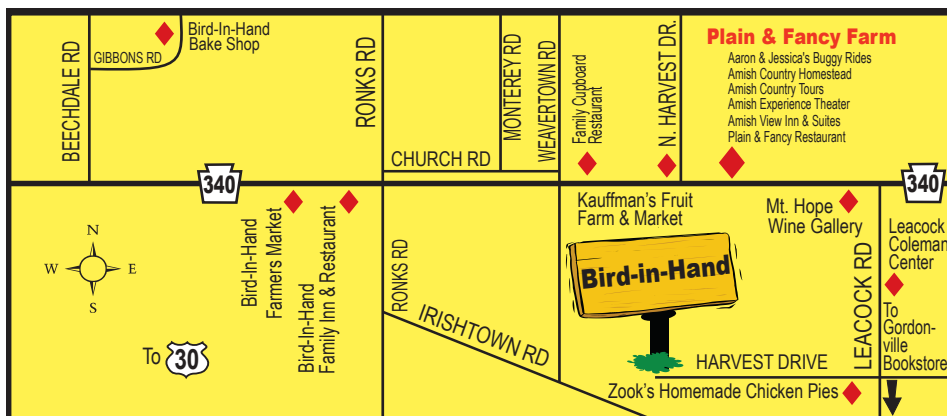
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Welcome to the Village of Bird-in-Hand



Of the many unique village names that dot the Amish Country map, one of the more interesting is Bird-in-Hand. William Penn, an English Quaker, had founded the colony of Penn's Woods, and settlers began arriving from Europe in the early 1700's, moving westward from Philadelphia. The trip by stagecoach, or Conestoga wagon with freight and merchandise, lasted several days. Inns were built every few miles, identified with signs held by an iron pole or attached to the side of the building. The reason for the signs was so that they could be understood by all nationalities. Further, since many teamsters or wagoners were poorly

educated they could not read. Given orders to stop at a certain inn, they were able to do so by recognizing the artwork on the signboard.

The legend of the naming of Bird-in-Hand dates to the time when the Old Philadelphia Pike was being laid out. By 1734, surveyors at McNabb's Hotel were discussing whether they should stay at their present location or return to Lancaster to spend the night. One of them said, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." The sign in front of the inn, which became known as the Bird-in-Hand Inn, is known to have once "portrayed a man with a bird in his hand and a bush nearby, in which two birds were perched."

Variations of this sign appear throughout the town today. McNabb's Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1851. By the following year, a three-story hotel was built to replace it. More recently, it was Bitzer's Hotel before becoming the present Village Inn of Bird-in-Hand, a beautiful bed and breakfast property. The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County states that the existing brick building "may be one of the few 19th century inns in the context of a small town in Lancaster County, which survives with a high degree of architectural integrity." It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. When referring to their bird in hand symbol, some residents say that the bird nestled in the human hand indicates friendship, comfort, and hospitality, all of which you'll discover in this perfectly delightful little village of shops, farmers markets and eateries.

400,000

Gallons of apple cider sold at
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**Flower & Craft Warehouse
(Continued from Page 41)**

Christmas of old-time nursery rhymes, rustically carrying a tree over his shoulder. At nearly twelve inches tall, he seemed the perfect height for standing sentry on the coffee table next to the tree and the presents that would magically appear Christmas Eve. No peeking!



No Witch At Home

If you've read Hansel and Gretel you know better than to barge into a Gingerbread House without first checking to see if the lady of the house is home. Thankfully, my find wasn't in move-in condition. Rather our new gingerbread house is a figurine, and is neither edible, nor perishable, a very good thing in a household with both pets and kids. I chose this decorative cottage because the colorful swirls on the candy looked so appealing, and the gingerbread frosted with realistic-looking sugar designs evoked happy thoughts and holiday cheer. I fondly remember building a real candy-and-cakes gingerbread house as a kid, and wanted a permanent example to gaze upon this Christmas and for many more to follow.

Through the Looking Glass

Seeing a Christmas tree bedecked in fine glass ornaments is the reward that makes the hard work of setting it up well worth the effort. I'm admittedly

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I took advantage of the super saver tour because of the savings, but got so much more for my money! I arrived at 10:30 am, and literally spent the whole day there.
Not only was the tour package great, but to top it all off, I had a relaxing fantastic dinner at the restaurant before I headed back to my B&B. All in all, it was a great day!!!

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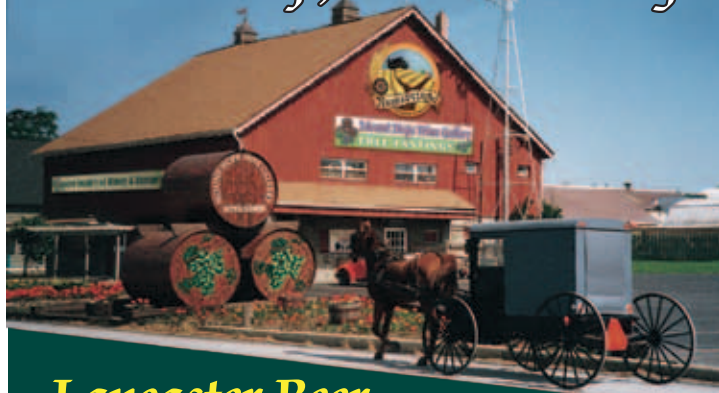
a little fussy when it comes to taking very good care of our round glass ornaments, hoping to make them last for generations. In most cases,

I've been successful, although a shattered ball or two over the years attests to the fragile finery of

Continued on Page 45

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Over 70 local Amish families "lend a hand" to the Riehl's store, whether it's sewing the quilts or making other items like quilts, birdhouses, spice mats, candles, cookbooks, and jams and jellies.



Flower & Craft Warehouse (Continued from Page 43)



these classic Christmas decorations. I decided to add a shimmery-green glass ball to our collection, as it seemed to speak especially to me from a selection of what seemed like millions of chromatically rounded sirens tempting me closer. The green, in its various shades, caught my eye, and I was intrigued how the ball was see-through at points owing to a high-quality glass free of imperfections. It was warm, colorful and untouched all at the same time and I found the contrasts extremely interesting. As a rather large example of the now beloved bauble, nearly six inches in diameter, I'll be searching for an especially strong branch on this year's family Christmas tree, freshly cut of course.

With a bag full of new inspirations did I head home, today happy to pass my finds along to you and eager to learn of your shopping successes sharable with me at Clinton@AmishNews.com.

The Flower & Craft Warehouse is located in Blue Ball, only a stone's throw from the iconic Shady Maple complex, itself inspiringly

decorated for the Holidays. For those of you using a GPS, you'll want 196 Center Street, East Earl, PA 17519. If you're heading there on my instructions, simply drive east on Route 23 (New Holland Pike), easily reached off Route 30. After about thirteen miles, traveling through Leola and New Holland, you'll come to the intersection of Routes 322 and 23. Bear right, continuing

on 322 East for about 1 block and make a right onto Broad St. (If you get to Route 897, you've gone too far.) At the end of Broad St. turn left. The parking lot is on both sides of the street. For hours and information, call 717-355-9975 or visit www.flowerandcraft.com. Final words of wisdom --- do plan on spending some time at Flower and Craft! 



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The Amish

Experience



Last year marked the 52nd anniversary of three of Lancaster's premiere attractions, all at one location on the AAA designated Scenic Cultural Byway, Route 340, mid-way between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse.

at Plain & Fancy Farm

This year marked the 53rd anniversary of Plain & Fancy Farm as the very first family-style restaurant. It remains a legendary dining experience. At the same time, Amish Country Tours (Dutchland Tours) began the first regularly scheduled tours for visitors through the scenic Amish farmlands. And 1959 also marked the opening of the Amish Country Homestead, the only Amish house tour designated a Heritage Site by Lancaster County.

room. An Amish schoolteacher helped decorate the room to give it the feel of a real school. It's all included in the house tour.



Interpreting the ever-changing Amish culture respectfully and accurately is no easy task. The authenticity of the Amish Country Homestead resulted in its designation as the only Heritage Site Amish house tour in Lancaster County.



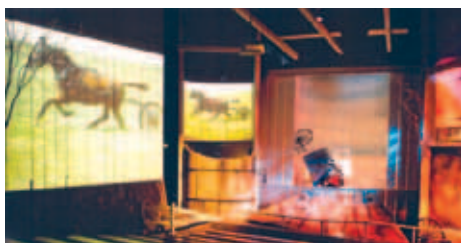
Amish House Tour Unravels Riddles

Amish people wouldn't appreciate visitors walking through their homes all day...nor would you! So the best way to see the inside of a house is on a tour. At the Amish Country Homestead, the staff is committed to interpreting the changing Amish lifestyle. Rather than a museum, it has the feel of a real, "lived in" home. Guides take visitors on a fascinating 45-minute tour through the nine rooms. Discover how church is held in the home and hear the singing. See how Mom does her laundry---with a gasoline engine! Upstairs learn about Plain dress, while the kids enjoy the marble rollers.

The Fisher Amish Schoolroom is where you (or the kids) can sit at actual Amish school desks and learn how all eight grades are taught in one

Amish Hi-Tech

In 1995, a new concept in interpreting Amish life debuted when the Amish Experience F/X Theater became only the third "experiential" theater in North America. The goal of this one-of-a-kind project was to give a more personal, intimate view of the Amish, connecting past to present. Rather than a somber documentary, the story goes inside an Amish family as their son



Jacob struggles to decide whether to remain in the Amish faith.

An important missing link in most tellings of the Amish story is the persecution of the Anabaptists in Europe and the perilous journey to America. Rather than observe, visitors will now feel a part of history as special effects, including an amazing technology called "Pepper's Ghost," combine with smoke, wind, rain, and fire effects in a wrap-around barnyard setting.

A superb blending of entertainment and education, this touching and exciting production has moved some people to tears and children to exclaim "Wow!" This show, which has been called "400 years of history in 40 minutes of magic," can only be seen here in Lancaster, so be sure to make it a part of your visit. (Shows on the hour.)

Where the Amish Live & Work

Visitors who simply drive around looking at Amish farms rarely come away with much insight into the unique culture that attracts people from around the world. Amish Country Tours provide certified guides to take visitors down the backroads, deep into the farmlands and scenery that is as beautiful now as it was 50 years ago. Guides offer fascinating information on one-room schools, farming practices, "cottage

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Plain & Fancy — Farm to Table Since 1959

industries,” wedding customs, and more. Did you know there are Amish millionaires?

Winter Amish Farmland Tours

See Page 54 for
days and times of tours.

But you are not just sitting on the 14-passenger shuttle the whole time. Whenever possible, a stop is made at an actual Amish farm. Other stops may include a local bakeshop, roadside stand, or craft shop. Having a guide is recommended over tape tours, which are often outdated and can never answer questions about special activities you may see that day. Purchase tickets for this 90-minute tour online at AmishExperience.com. Click on "Tickets" in the upper right hand corner of the page.

A Lancaster Original

Amos, Ben, Manny and Elmer are the Amish farmers who supply the Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant with sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelon, cabbage, broccoli, squash, peppers and onions. These neighbors, and the neighbors before them, have helped Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant go “from farm to table” for over 50 years. The restaurant is AAA recommended, a PA Preferred and ServSafe award winner, and the Pennsylvania recipient of USA Today’s Great Plate Award.

The Amish Farm Feast

Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant is best known for being Lancaster County’s original family-style restaurant. The all-you-can-eat Amish Farm Feast includes your entrees, side dishes, starters, desserts and beverages. Enjoy fried chicken, roast beef, chicken pot pie, baked sausage, real mashed potatoes, buttered noodles, green and yellow string beans, dried sweet corn, chow chow, cole slaw, raisin bread, rolls and apple butter, lemonade, iced tea, hot tea, coffee, sour cream apple crumb pie, shoofly pie and vanilla ice cream. A \$3 off coupon valid for each adult in the party can be found adjacent to this article.

The New “ala carte” Menu

The restaurant also offers a new ala carte menu featuring mouth watering appetizers, signature soups and salads, charbroiled burgers and sandwiches, and made-from-scratch entrees and platters. The ala carte menu is also a great value with Lunch Specials from \$7.95 and Dinner Specials from \$10.95.

The Country Store

Find books, DVDs, candles, souvenirs and local handcrafts, and more. Explore The Country Store’s collection of traditional Amish clothing, straw hats, bonnets, toys and dolls,



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* With this ad. Hours/menus/prices may vary.

\$3 off
Lancaster's Original Amish Farm Feast

Feast includes entrees, sides, starters, beverages and desserts and is valid for up to 6 adults. Not valid Easter, Mother's Day, Thanksgiving or w/ any other offer, special, group rate. Not valid on ala carte menu. Expires 12/31/12 **PLU 505**

and discover new treasures to adorn your kitchen and home. You'll find seasonal items as well as Christmas decorations, available year-round. The store also features Kauffman's Fruit Farm jams and jellies, bakery fresh items from Miller's Bakery, and Plain & Fancy chow chow and apple butter.

AmishView Inn & Suites

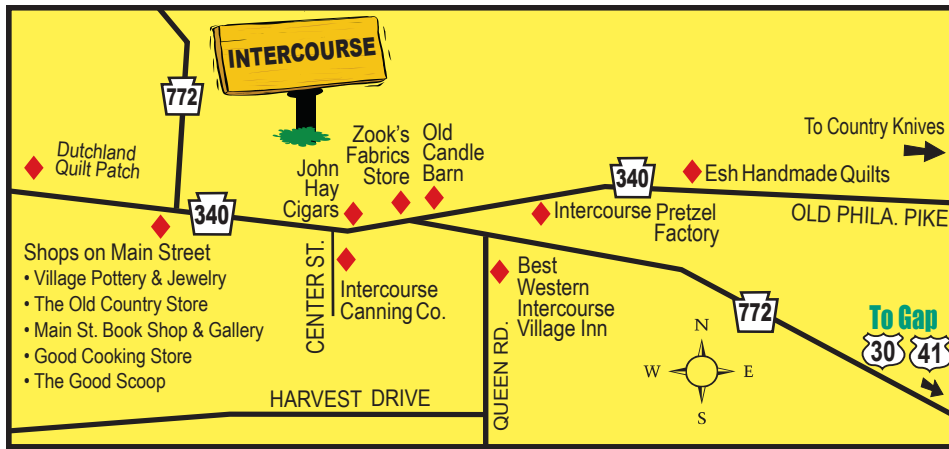
While you're at Plain & Fancy Farm, you're invited to stroll up and visit AmishView Inn & Suites, a classically beautiful hotel that features elegant accommodations and incredible views. If time permits, a front desk representative can provide you with a quick tour of the hotel. The

indoor pool, fitness center, arcade, whirlpools and fireplaces make AmishView perfect for an intimate getaway, family vacation, or corporate retreat. Complimentary hot country breakfast, wireless internet, HBO, DVD players, special amenities and kitchenettes come with every room.

Where It All Began

With all of these amenities and attractions in one beautiful location surrounded by Amish farmland, the Amish Experience at Plain & Fancy is the ideal starting point to enjoy all that the area has to offer as you create your own special Lancaster County experience! 

Welcome to Intercourse PA



Perhaps no other town in the entire country can claim its fame on one simple thing --- its name. Harrison Ford drove a buggy past the road sign on a memorable visit in the Hollywood blockbuster hit of the movie "Witness." For years people have postmarked "Intercourse" on envelopes, and the jokes from visitors who travel through Bird-in-Hand to Intercourse are endless. There are several theories for the name, but that which we find most plausible follows.

Around 1730, the Old Provincial Highway (now Route 340) was laid out to connect Philadelphia with Lancaster. Conestoga wagons hauled freight back and forth between the two cities. Providing rest for travelers and horses, taverns sprouted along the way, becoming centers for news, gossip, and commerce. The construction of a log tavern in 1754 at the intersection of Newport Road and the Highway took "Cross Keys" as its name.

It remained such until 1814, when the name was changed to Intercourse as part of a failed real estate scheme of a Mr. George Brungard, who had acquired 48 acres of nearby land and attempted to lay out a town site and divide it into sections for sale by a lottery, advertising "151 handsome building lots of \$250 each to be drawn for by number." Renaming the town made sense, as intercourse had a common usage referring to the pleasant mutual fellowship and

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frequent intermingling which were so common in the informal atmosphere of the quiet country village.

Over time, Brungard's scheme begat others. As recently as 1971, an enterprising soul tried to take advantage of the town's name by selling deeds for one-inch square plots of Intercourse

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to visitors. Creative, but nonetheless a failure. By 1880, Intercourse had a population of 280 with a post office that actually moved among stores or restaurants as owners hoped visits by residents would increase their business.

The local stagecoach service started around 1898 as "a single horse conveyance similar to a market wagon, with a roll-up curtain and double set of seats." When the stagecoach driver knew of passengers beforehand, their comfort on cold days was added to with the placement of hot bricks heated in the oven, and wrapped in newspaper to preserve their warmth.

As the days of the dirt road drew to a close, so too did the stagecoach era. In 1923 a transit company was organized and bus service initiated to and from Lancaster. While "many of the Amish residents of the area were eager to see the line started, they did not want to invest in stock of the Company. Instead they bought books of tickets which were really prepaid bus

fares." Enough money was raised to buy a Mack Auto Bus for \$6,800. It held 25 passengers and even had solid rubber tires!

Today Intercourse has been recognized as a "foodie" town by the Visitor's Bureau. You'll soon discover why walking the streets of this tiny hamlet is an absolute must-visit for everyone. 

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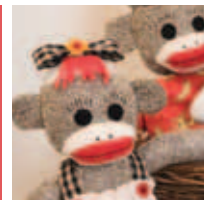


There's lots to see right now on stage at
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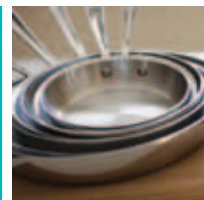
SHOPS ON MAIN STREET



INTERCOURSE, PA



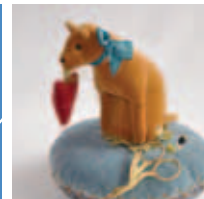
The Old Country Store



The Good Cooking Store



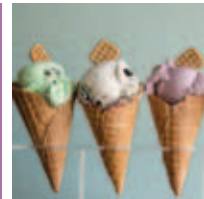
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Renninger's Antique Market In TV's Spotlight

by Clinton Martin

The largest antique market in Amish Country also happens to be one of the largest in the Country. Thousands of visitors have stopped by Renninger's Antique

Market in Adamstown each week for over 40 years to scour the eclectic mix of real vintage, true antiques, weird kitschy, and plenty of oddball curiosities. Such notoriety doesn't go unnoticed, and indeed on a recent Sunday the



cast of the new hit reality TV series MARKET WARRIORS descended on the Renninger's campus with antiques and deals on their minds.



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In short, the show's premise is that four pickers travel the Country looking for interesting antiques and collectibles to buy and then resell at an auction in California when the season comes to a close. The competition is to produce the highest profit from the sale of their hoped-for bargains.

Of course, most visitors shopping at Renninger's aren't professional buyers. Curiosity-seekers, collectors, window-shoppers, and, of course, the pros are all regulars at Renninger's. The market is open every Sunday (but only Sundays.) Since many attractions in Amish Country are closed on Sundays, Renninger's is a great option.

The consensus among die-hards is "Come Early!" Renninger's has both an outdoor and an

indoor market. The outdoor stands start setting up before the sun rises, opening for business at 5:00am. The indoor market opens "later" at 7:30am. Renninger's is located on Route 272 in Adamstown. GPS users use 2500 North Reading Road, Denver PA. Parking is free. 

24,000,000

Gallons of Tea Made
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Union Barrel Works

by Clinton Martin

Union Barrel Works, where it doesn't matter if the glass is half-empty or half-full, as long as it was once a full pint sipped down to the point of this philosophical conundrum, is a beautiful family-friendly brewpub in Amish Country's northern corner, just minutes from Adamstown's antique stores a-plenty and Ephrata's historical and cultural attractions.

In the winter season, Union Barrel Works adds dark and hearty ales and lagers to their ever-rotating selection of house-brewed craft beers, including Belgian and English-style pours. The food also takes a fresh look at cheek-warming, satisfying fare perfect for the cooler, crisper months.

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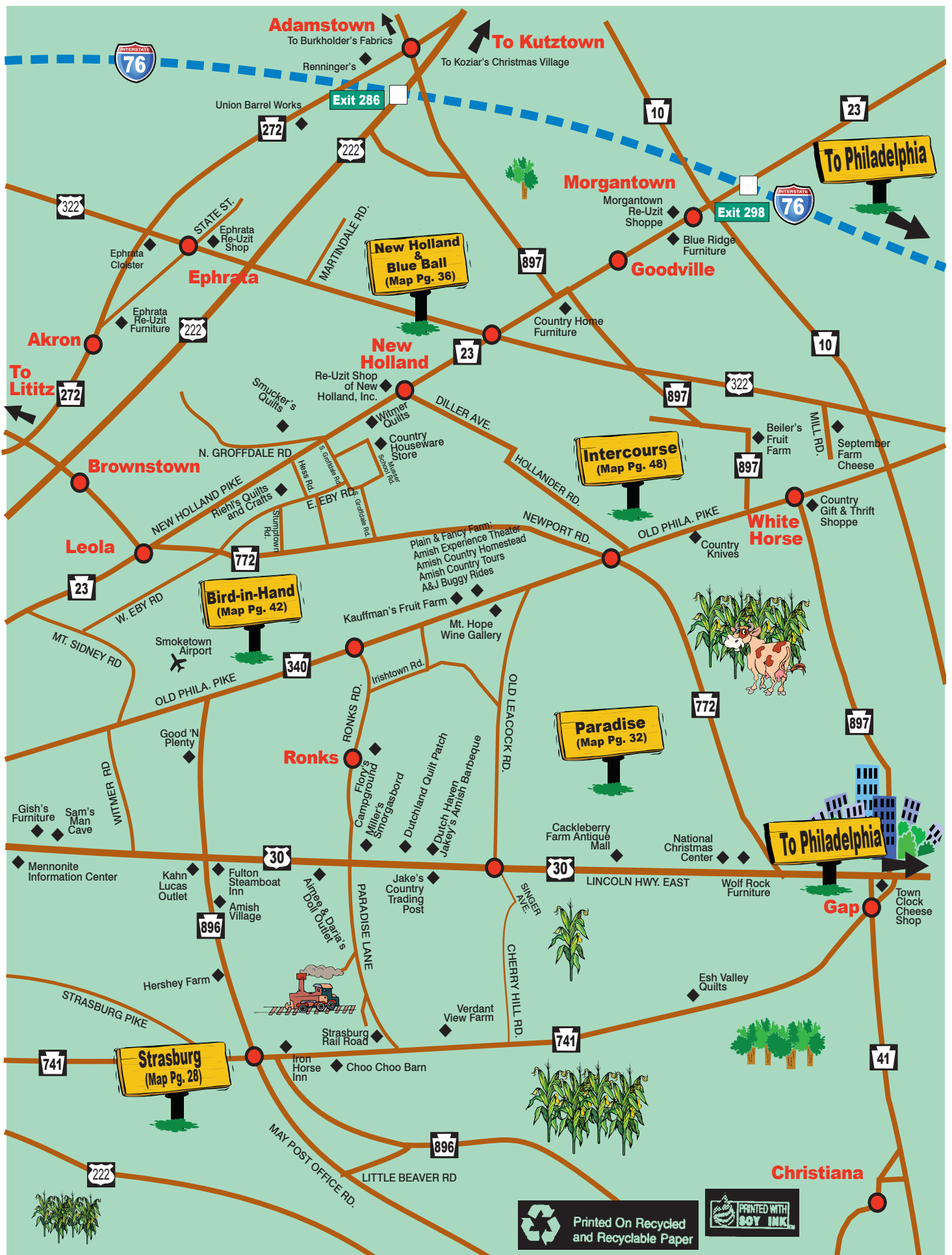
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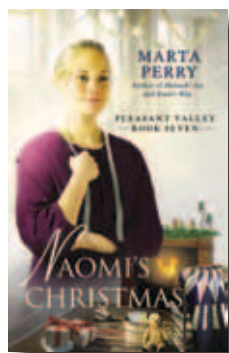
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Naomi's Christmas An Amish Novel in Review

by Clinton Martin

Marta Perry's latest book, number seven in the Pleasant Valley series, arrives just in time for the Christmas season. This title, NAOMI'S CHRISTMAS, is a must-read for those following the series, but is equally enjoyable to those (like me) who step into the story for the first time at this plot-thickening point.



Naomi Esch, the central figure in the Pleasant Valley series, is in many ways a traditional Amish woman, strong in faith, tender in love for her family, and humble in spirit. However, in the most intriguing instances she shows quickly that all is not at peace

with her. She doesn't possess many of life's gifts so highly valued among the Amish community. She hasn't married, indeed losing her prime marrying years to raising her siblings after her mother's untimely death. She doesn't have a home of her own, and instead is expected to bounce around from relative's house to relative's house working to earn her keep. And most notably, her own personal sense of purpose is threatened from the very beginning of the story.

Her sole possession is a collection of beehives which she dutifully tends as a small business. That, and working part-time at a local bakery, provides a modest income, yet her life's meaning seems slowly slipping from her. In the weeks approaching Christmas, her father makes quick, and to her consideration, harsh decisions affecting her future when he decides to remarry, in essence replacing her role in the family.

Thankfully, Naomi is given the opportunity to pursue what her heart has yearned for, if not in ways she expects. She moves to a nearby farm where she is able to keep her bees, very important for her. As part of the agreement, she agrees to care for the children of the household, those of a widower, Nathan King. He is somewhat cold to her, and she doesn't particularly warm up to him, but the arrangement is so mutually beneficial, the Pleasant Valley Amish community assumes a wedding is in the making.

As Naomi's and Nathan's lives run parallel to one another, at times intersecting, and other

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Breakfast is served on Saturdays & Sundays only (from 7:30am)

times bending away from each other, the reader is treated to a warm Christmas view of the Amish community, with family traditions and community events brought into play in a most believable way. The community quickly becomes familiar to the reader, and the struggles, joys, happiness, and sorrows of the characters are easily internalized. The story definitely delivers a realistic, yet homey feel from page to page.

The novel brings a clear direction for Naomi's life, one that will remain closely guarded here. But I can tell you that it's delightful postscript includes a most genuine of Amish gifts, a sampling of Christmas recipes to try at home, and a few craft projects perfect for the both the "Plain" and the

"Fancy" folk of the world. More information about Ms. Perry's series can be found at www.martaperry.com. For a thoughtful Christmas gift for yourself, or friends and family, of course, the good news is that NAOMI'S CHRISTMAS is on sale now anywhere books are sold. 

500,000

Number of light bulbs used in display at
Koziar's Christmas Village
in Bernville PA.

An Amish Christmas

by Brad Igou

As might be expected, Amish Christmas customs are simple, oriented to the family and the religious meaning of the holiday. So, Amish children don't visit Santa Claus in the store. There is no lavishly decorated Christmas tree in the home. And strings of colorful electric lights do not grace the front of the Amish house.

But the making of special cookies and candies is certainly a part of the holiday activities. Greens and candles may decorate some home interiors. School children often pick names and exchange small gifts, such as writing paper or a needlepoint kit. Families usually exchange some small gifts as well. Some Amish also send Christmas cards, often to their "English" friends.

The Christmas church service may or may not be held on December 25th, but both Christmas and the following day, sometimes called "second Christmas," are holidays for the Amish. This second day is usually one of relaxation or visiting

others. Christmas dinners are a special part of the celebration. These are usually large meals, not unlike those served at weddings, and various groups besides the family will hold get-togethers, such as single women, teachers, and others of like interest. These gatherings may continue into January and February of the New Year.



Even our snowmen look Amish.
(Photo credit: Christena Peters)

As in any close-knit community, Christmas is also a time to think of others less fortunate. Following is a story concerning a "deed of kindness" in an Amish community in Wisconsin at Christmastime. It is reprinted from the book **THE AMISH IN THEIR OWN WORDS...**

It was around Christmas and our family had just retired for the night. We were awakened out of our sleep by the sound of seemingly heavenly music outside the house. We got up and, after coming to our senses, realized it was the community's young folks caroling for us. I was with the young folks at the time and began to question why they hadn't included me. I felt very sorry for myself.

After they left as quietly as they had come, one of us opened the door to peer out into the night, stumbling over a large tub and containers. What was it? Upon investigating, we discovered them filled with ground meat. We had suffered a fire loss and here they had assembled at one of the neighbors to work up a beef for us. We felt unworthy of such a gift, but filled with gratitude at the thoughtfulness.

Needless to say, I was very ashamed over the first feelings I had toward the young folks.

Sometimes it takes a jolt like this, a deed of genuine kindness, to waken us to our real sense of values and make us appreciate our blessings more.



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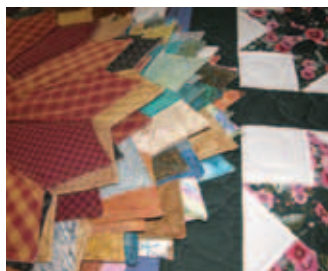
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What's Coming Up In Spring 2013!



Spring means Quilts & Crafts in Amish Country, with the season kicking off in patchwork style with the annual American Quilter's Society Convention and Expo at the Lancaster County Convention Center. Mark your calendars now for the show March 13 – 16, 2013.

The Spring (March-May) issue of AMISH COUNTRY NEWS highlights how, where, and why quilts and crafts are at home in Amish Country, and includes plenty of ways to shop, dine, stay, and play in our world-famous destination.

Deadline:
December 31st, 2012



Calling All Photographers!

2012 Amish Country News
Photo Contest



Ours is one of the most photographed areas in the world. With so much beauty and variety around us, it's no wonder! If you think you've got a great photo, why not send it to us? The winner will receive free tour and attraction tickets. In addition, you will see your photo in the pages of Amish Country News! Other prizes will also go to the first, second, and third runners-up.

All submitted photos become the property of Amish Country News and the Amish Experience. Photos may also be used in upcoming issues, in other publications, and/or for other promotional purposes.

Photos will be judged on quality, color, subject matter, etc. Keep in mind that these photos are for publication, cannot be returned, and should depict a scene, aspect, event, or activity typical to Lancaster or the Pennsylvania Dutch Country region.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: December 31st, 2012

We will accept photos via email, and request that no more than 10 photos by the same person be submitted, so pick your best! Each photo submitted should contain the name, address, phone # and email address of the photographer, so they can be contacted. Any details on the location, date, or subject matter of the photograph should be included.

To enter, send photos in .jpg or .tiff format to: editor@amishnews.com
(Please put "2012 photo contest" in the subject line)

PUBLISHER'S MESSAGE

Relatively Speaking

by Brad Igou

Writing my 23rd annual Holiday Publisher's Message has been a challenge. Sentimental I am, not that there is anything wrong with that. Scrooge certainly wasn't, but his Christmas became one of deep self-examination. Thanks to an email from a friend in Costa Rica, a few Albert Einstein quotes, and some recent time with friends both Amish and "English", here goes...

Let's start with the email. Hector became a friend of mine when I was a Peace Corps volunteer working in agricultural extension in Costa Rica. He's since visited me and we stay in touch through the wonders of modern technology. His October email came with the subject line in Spanish, "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words." Not sure what to expect, I opened it to find a series of photos of friends, all on their cell phones.

We've all been to restaurants and noticed a table or two where everyone seemed to be "one with their phones" and table conversation was non-existent. How is it that the cell phone can turn the most sociable of activities, dining together, into a contrary experience as we communicate not with those next to us, but with others far away?

Here is perhaps the most striking photo showing a family at Christmas glued to their "devices," probably holiday gifts...



Hector's photo email ended, "These distractions pull us away from God and those we love. Don't let me be dominated by technology!"

Thus, to trash or not to trash today's technologies? I certainly know and appreciate their convenience. But at what cultural expense?

The Amish have been struggling with technology for decades, from the automobile and electricity to computers and cell phones. Years ago, I was talking with a carriage maker and, as we were ready to set up a date to meet again, I pulled out my pocket calendar book and he pulled out a Blackberry. Long before the iPhone, it was

the first Blackberry I had seen, and it was in the hands of an Amish man!

An Amish farmer and businessman-friend spends more time talking and texting on his phone than do I. He confesses that he feels he must try to rid himself of the phone, but we both know it wouldn't be easy.

"It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity."
- Albert Einstein

We hear of Amish kids with Facebook pages texting secretly during church services. Amish magazines feature ads for laptops stripped of the ability to go online, watch movies, or listen to music. Indeed, the Amish debate on how to keep modern influences from negatively impacting the values and beliefs that are at their core has never been more keenly focused.



It's not all that different for the rest of us. Truth be told, the minutes turn into hours when it comes to the unnecessary, unproductive time I sometimes spend online rather than with friends and family in person. No "cloud service" or "virtual experience" contains the happy Christmases spent quietly with my parents and my dog. Nor will I find some of the most meaningful and beautiful experiences of my entire life... the simple times chasing fireflies in the backyard, Thanksgiving dinner at home, walking alone along the Appian Way in Italy.

"To get to know a country, you must have direct contact with the earth. It's futile to gaze at the world through a car window."
- Albert Einstein

Like Scrooge in A CHRISTMAS CAROL, I'm not sure where I'd end up if I encountered the Ghost of Christmas Past. Perhaps he'd ask, "What is the best gift you have ever received?" and then whisk me far away from the world of technology to a farm during my Costa Rican Peace Corps days. There I am, visiting a farmer who is truly "dirt poor." Thanking me for my farming advice, he chases down one of his chickens, ties its legs together, and hands it to me to take on the bus ride back to the village where I live.

In this Central American countryside, eating a chicken or pig is a special treat. These farmers eat little besides rice, beans, and tortillas. I know this

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chicken is one rare meal of meat his family will no longer have. I, of course, decline this gift. He insists. Knowing it would be an insult to refuse, I leave with the bird, protesting in its own way. The Ghost has allowed me to see once again that this chicken truly was the greatest gift I have ever received.

"The value of a man resides in what he gives and not in what he is capable of receiving."
- Albert Einstein

Hopefully, like Scrooge, I will awaken Christmas morn joyfully full of life, my thoughts not of what I have, but rather for so many reasons, how lucky I am... and how I might share my "riches" with those less fortunate.

My Holiday wish for you is that you too discover that the best gift you might hope for is neither under the tree nor arriving late from Amazon.com. In fact, you couldn't buy it even if you wanted to. I'm guessing it's very nearby, maybe even sitting next to you...hopefully iPhone OFF! 🐷

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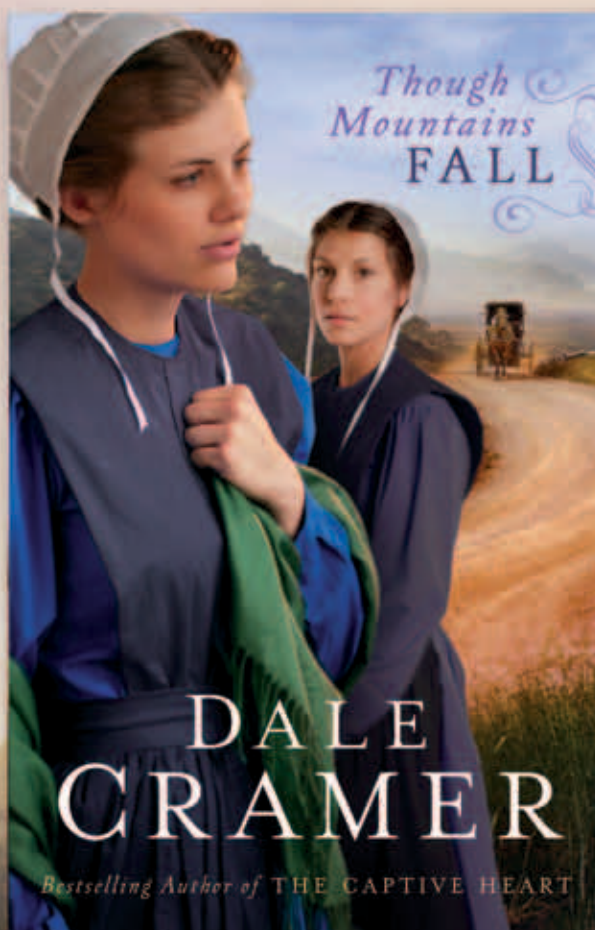
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